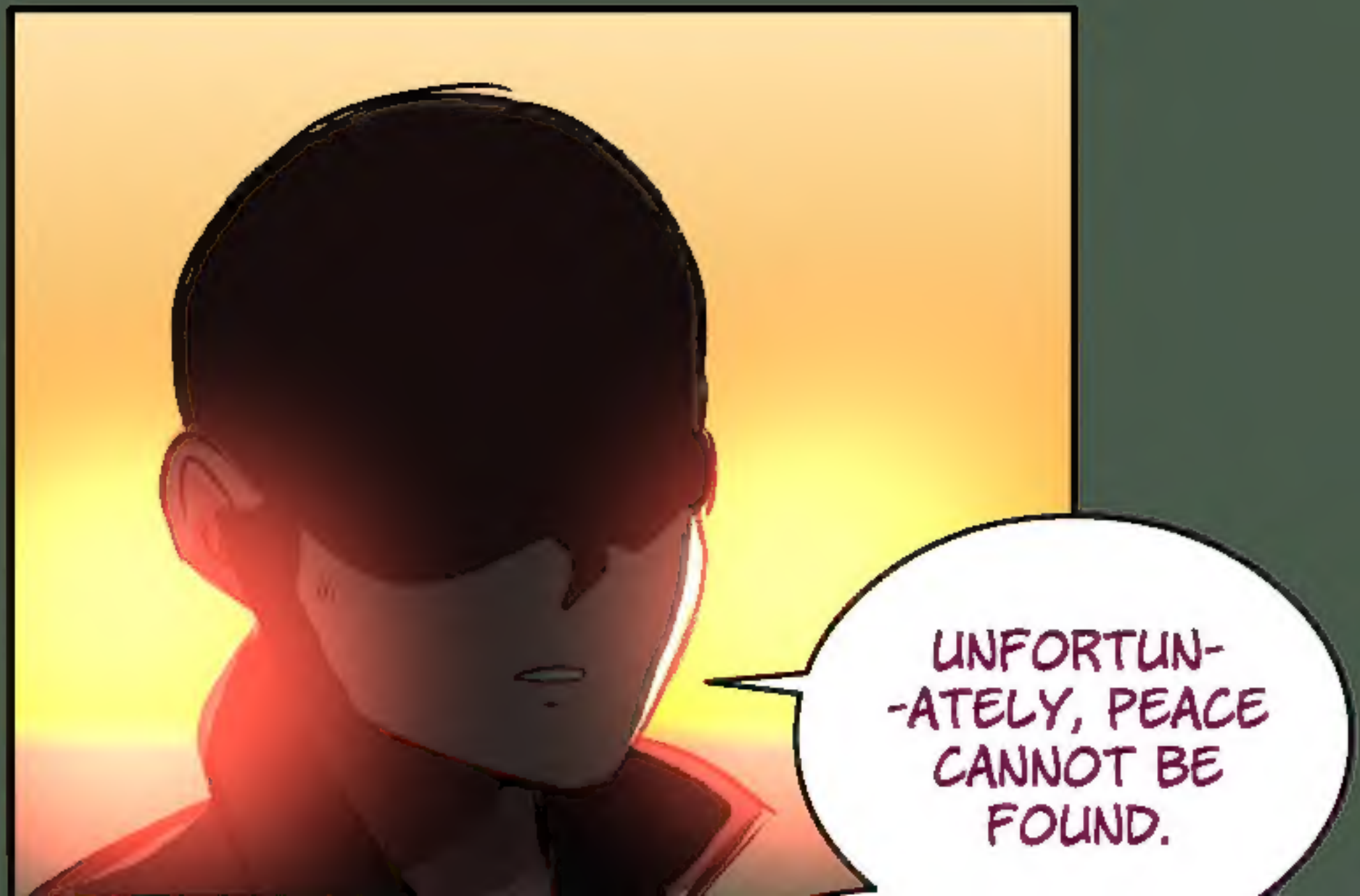
THIS SHOULD BE A SUITABLE SPOT TO MEDITATE.

BUT THE PLACE ISN'T AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR STATE OF MIND.

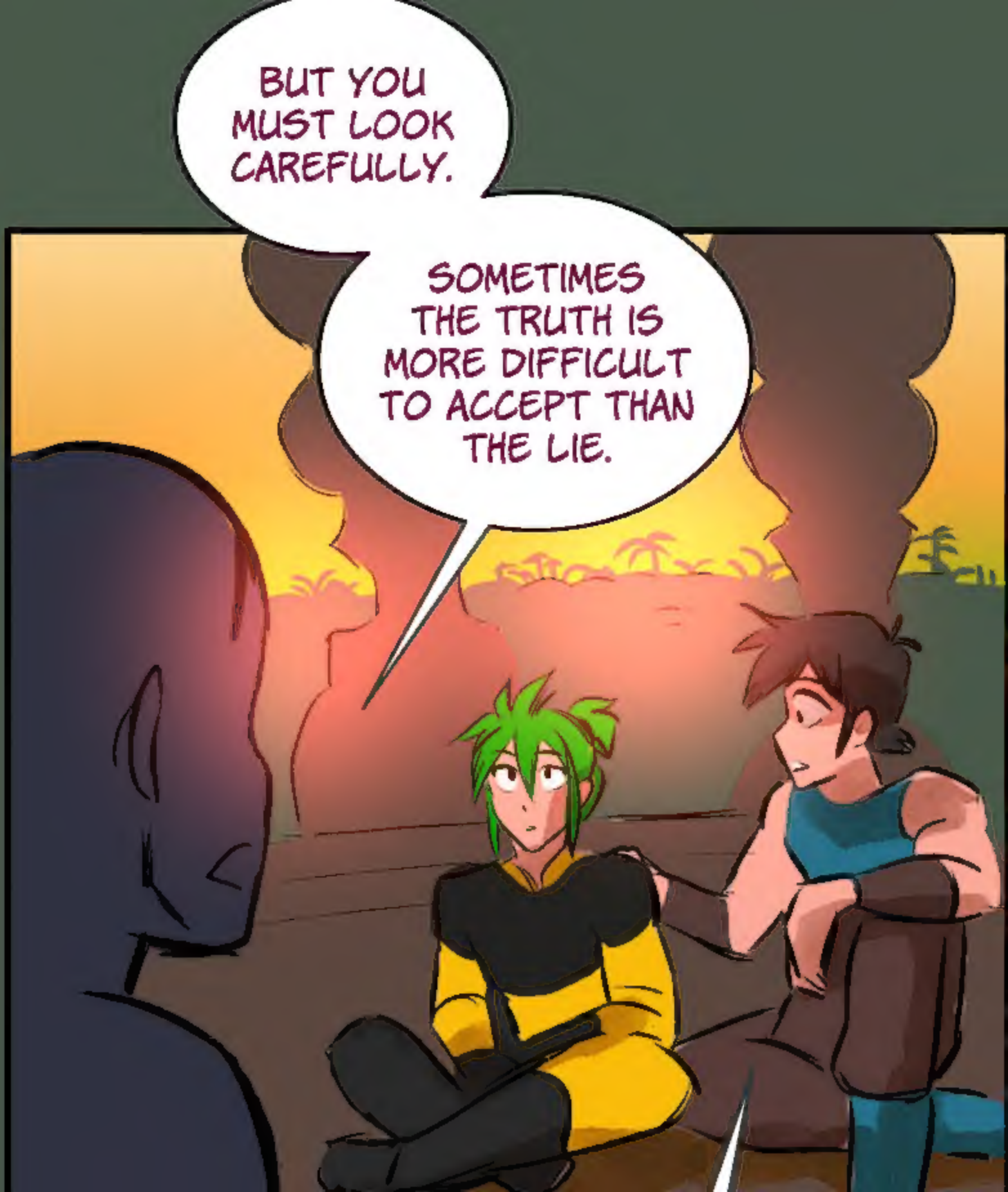
IF THE PLACE DOESN'T MATTER, WHY DIDN'T WE GO SOMEWHERE THAT WASN'T UP 1000 STAIRS?!

...AT LEAST IT'S QUIETER UP HERE.

SO HOW DO I FIND INNER PEACE?


UNFORTUN-
-ATELY, PEACE
CANNOT BE
FOUND.

IT IS
MADE BY SEEING
THROUGH FEAR AND
DELLUSION TO THE
TRUTH.


BUT YOU MUST LOOK CAREFULLY.
SOMETIMES THE TRUTH IS MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAN THE LIE.

GYRUS... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WE'RE PRETTY FAR FROM CAMP IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG...

I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE MY BACK.

CRACKLE
SHOOM

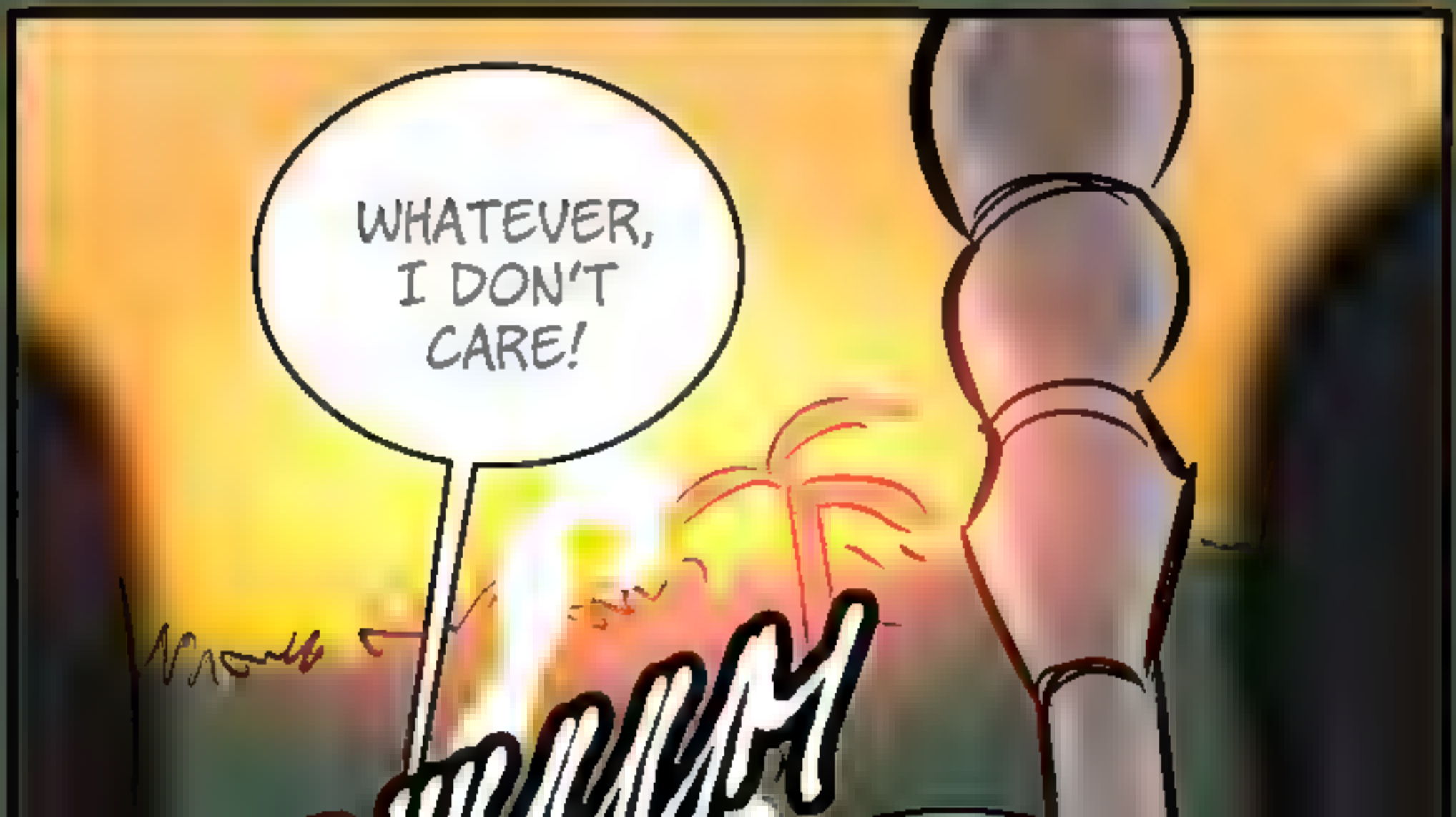
CRACKLE

THERE YOU ARE, SLACKERS! YOU KNOW HOW MANY STEPS I HAD TO CLIMB TO FIND YOU?!
IT ONLY TOOK 2 SECONDS THOUGH.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

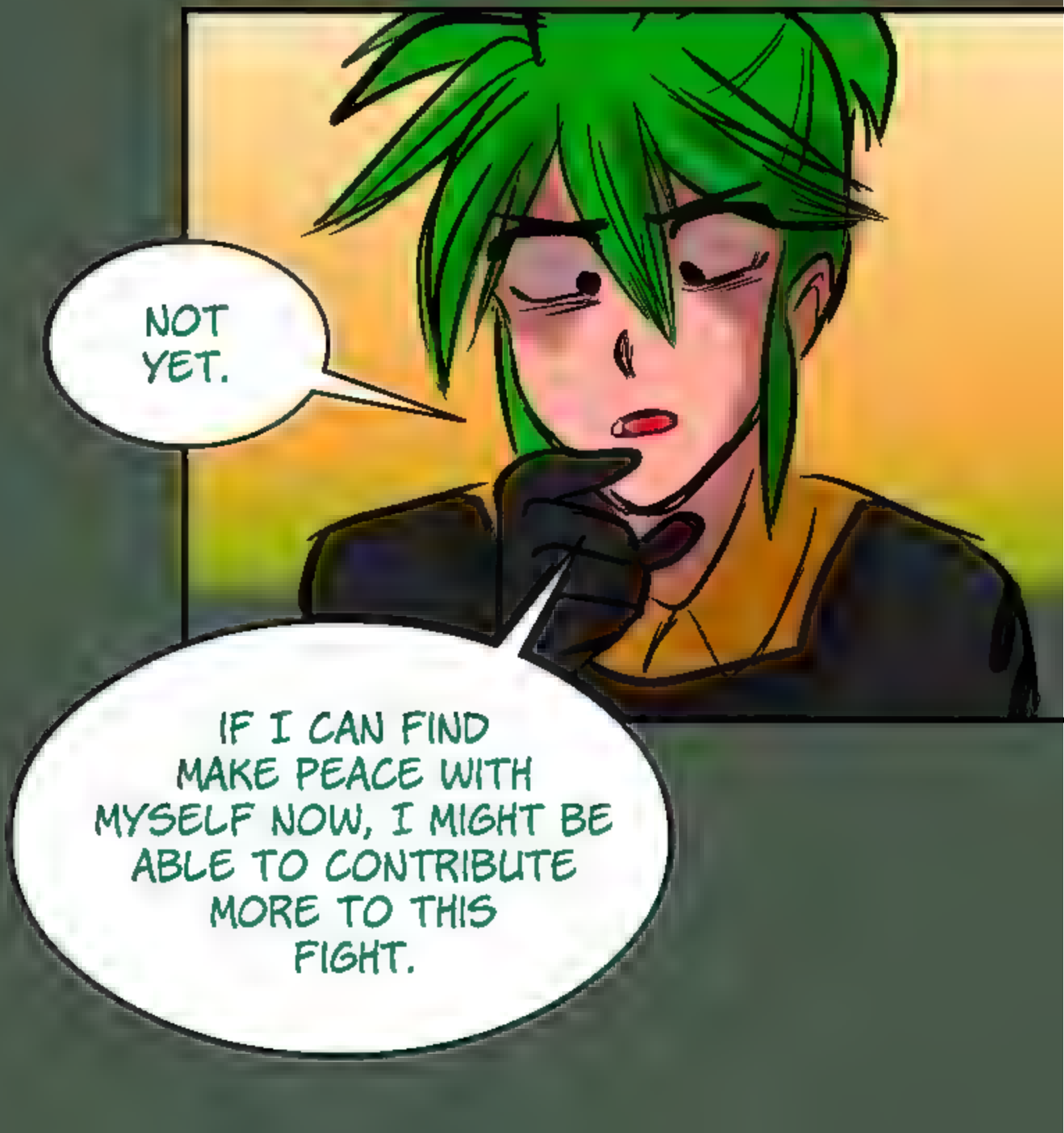
HEY!!
WHERE'S THE
FIREWOOD YOU
WENT FOR--

OH GROSS... DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE TO GET SOME *ALONE* TIME.

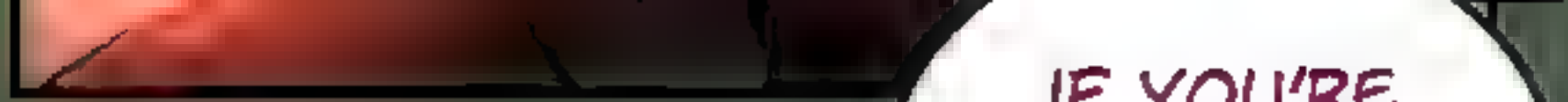

WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE!
SLAM

JUST GET YOUR ASSES DOWN HERE!
WE'RE MAKING BATTLE PLANS!

SOUNDS LIKE THEY NEED US. SHOULD WE HEAD BACK?


NOT YET.
IF I CAN FIND MAKE PEACE WITH MYSELF NOW, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THIS FIGHT.

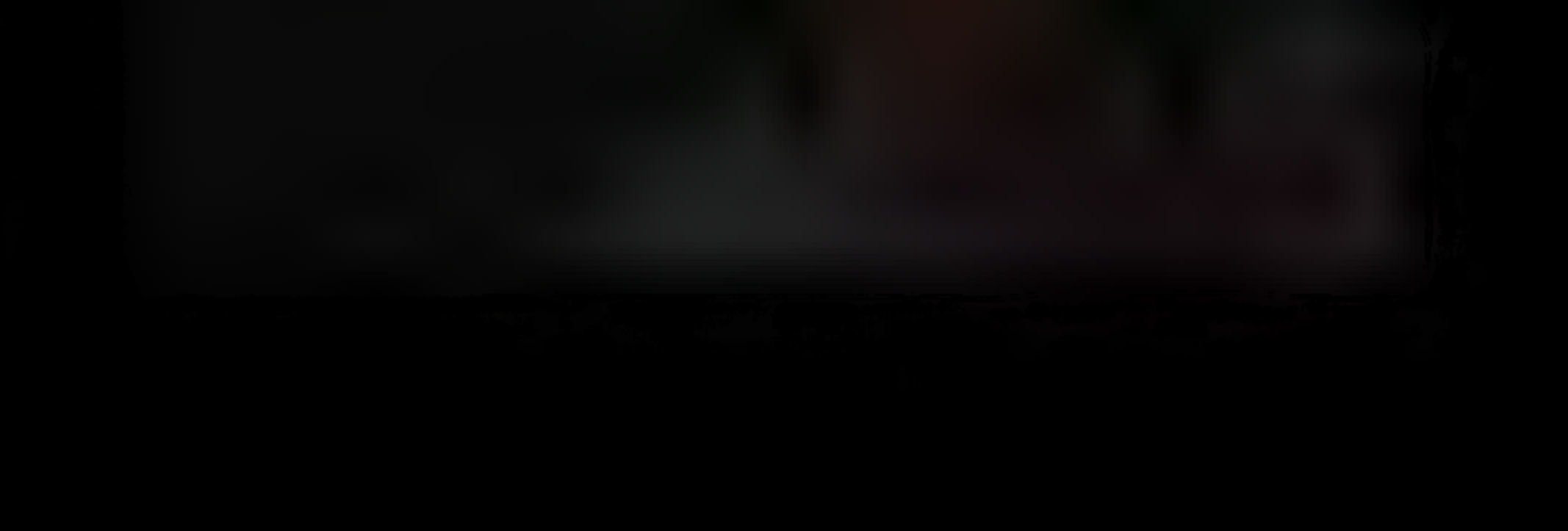
WHATEVER YOU WANT, GYRUS.

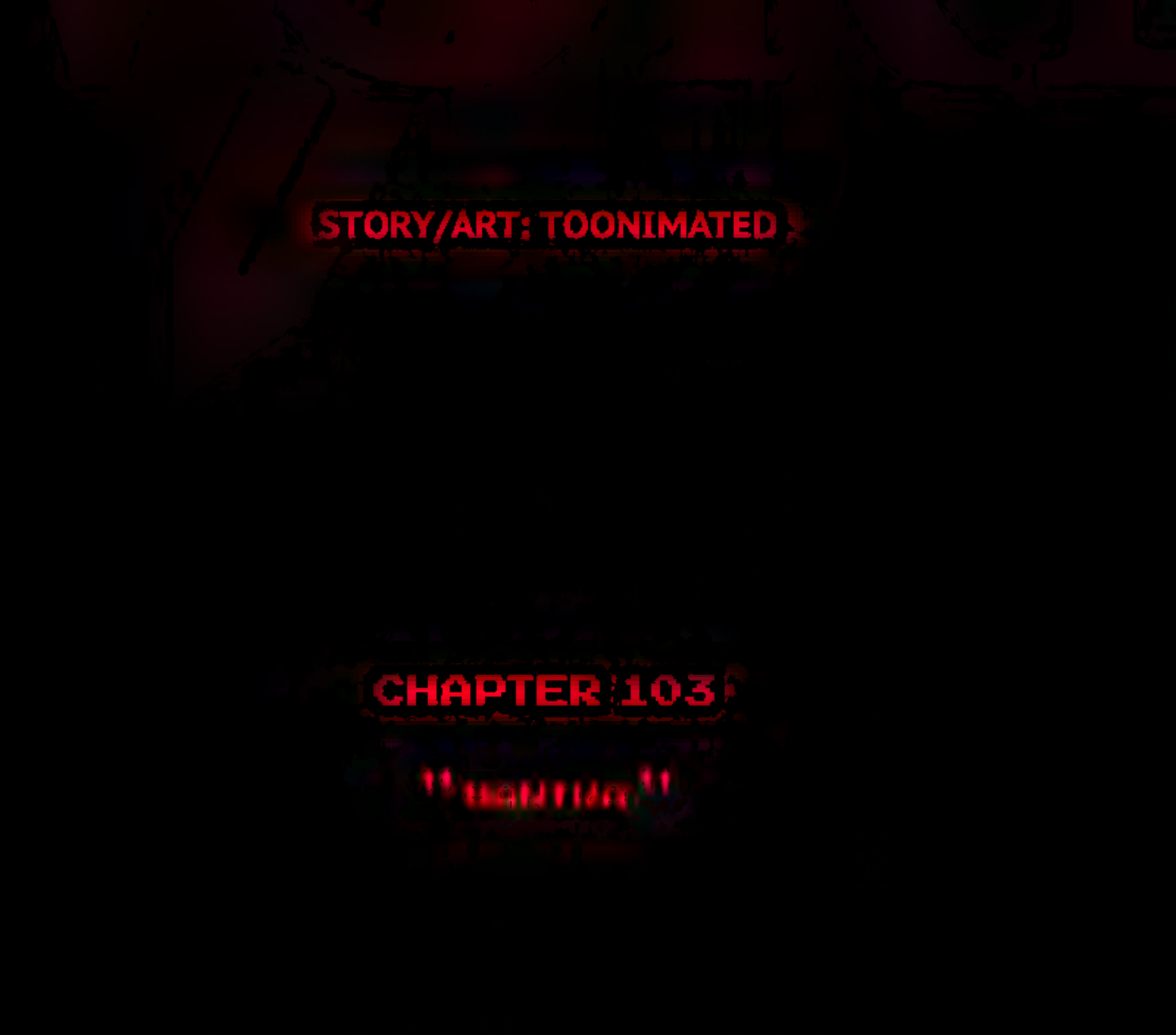


IF YOU'RE READY, CLOSE YOUR EYES.

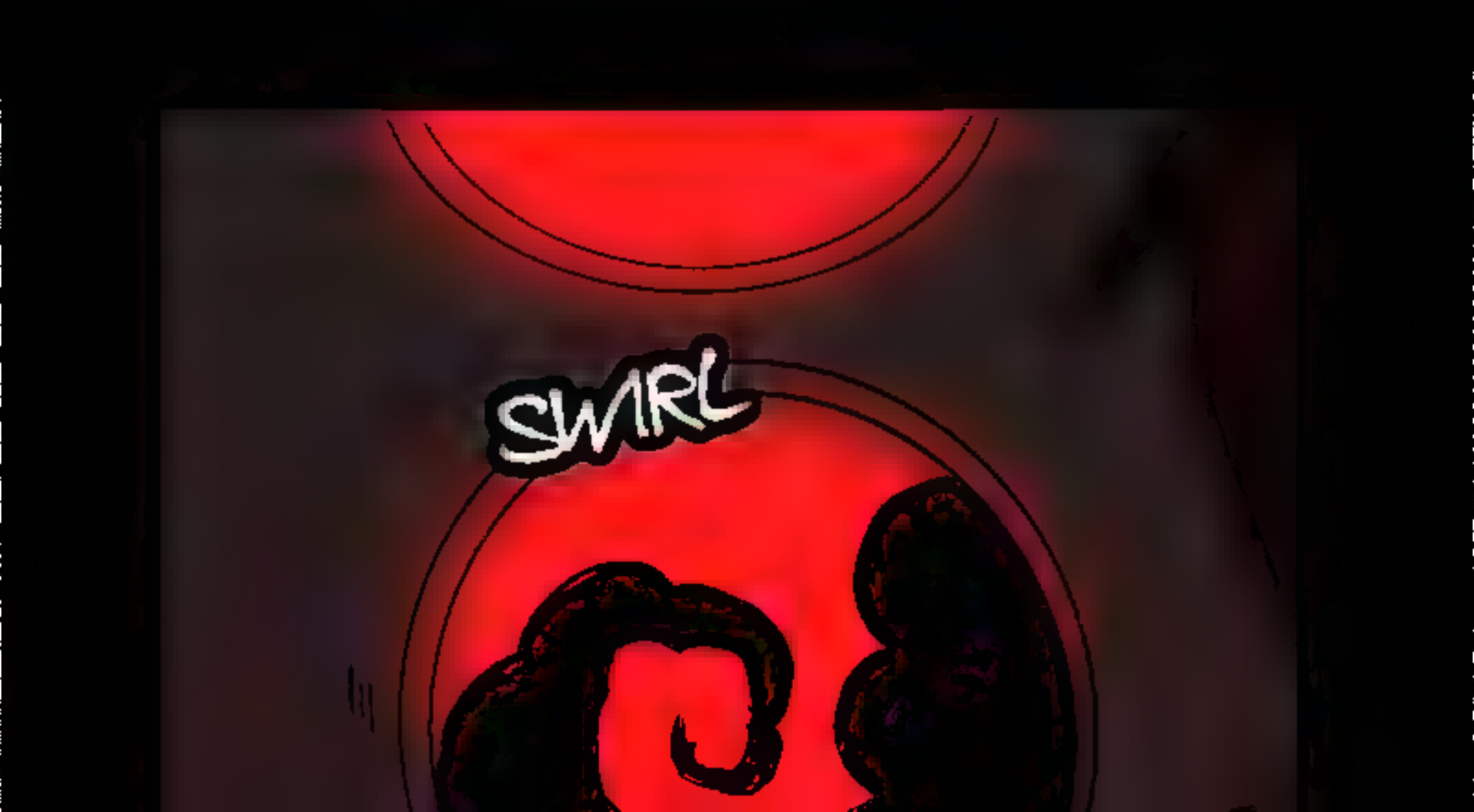
IMAGINE YOU'RE WALKING BACKWARDS INTO A LONG, DARK TUNNEL...

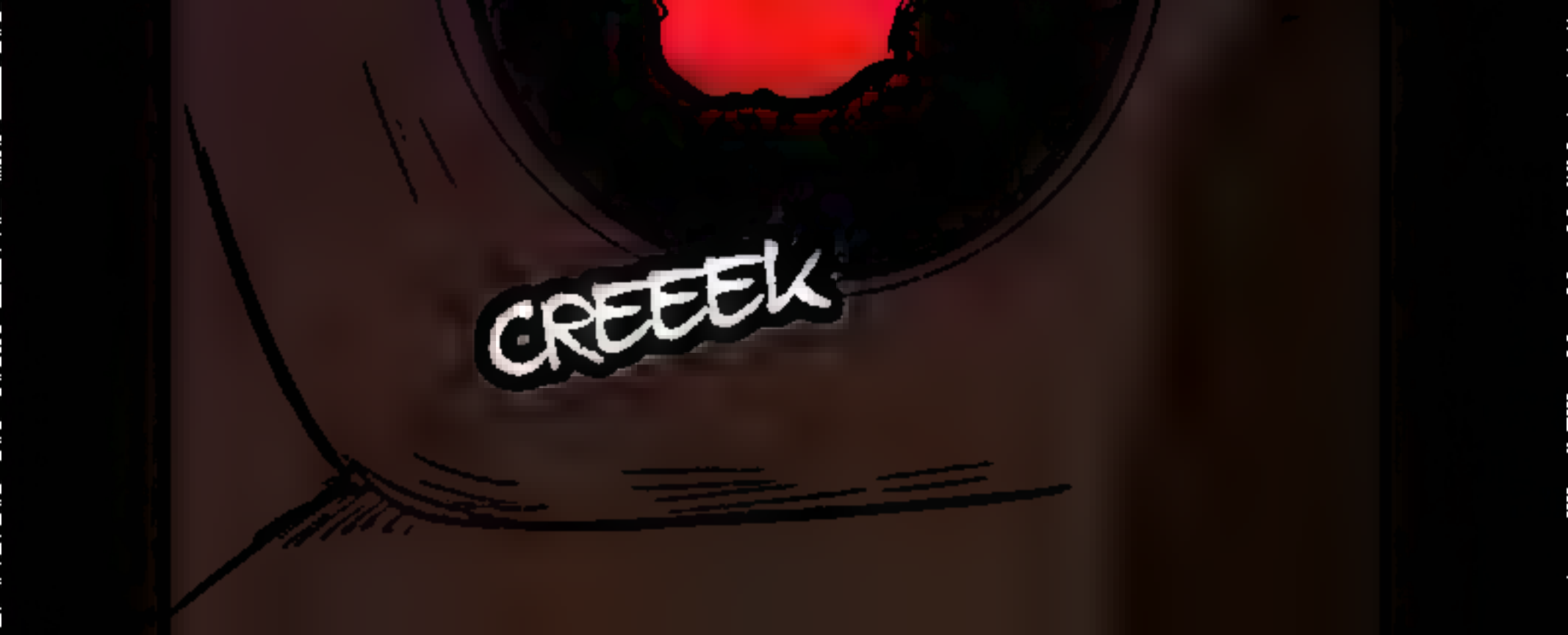
AS YOU WALK, NOTICE MY VOICE GETTING FURTHER...




STORY/ART: TOONIMATED
CHAPTER 103

YOUVE
RETURNED.


SWIRL


CREEEK

VOOOOM
HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES?

VOOOOM
I'M HERE TO MAKE PEACE.

YOU WANT TO BE FREE AND I WANT TO BE RID OF YOU. SURELY WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.

FREEDOM IS
NOT WHAT WE
DESIRE

SHOOMF!!

FUUUUUUU

KGH!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY RESOURCEFUL CREATURE HERE...

STOP.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS, DONT YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT...
A BOSS SWORD
SHARD.

I WONDER WHY HE NEVER TOLD YOU...

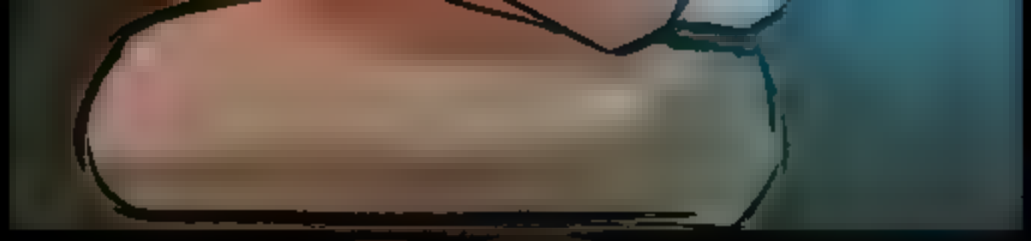
I SAID
STOP!!

WOOOOOSH!

YOUR ILLUSIONS WON'T WORK.
WOOMMM

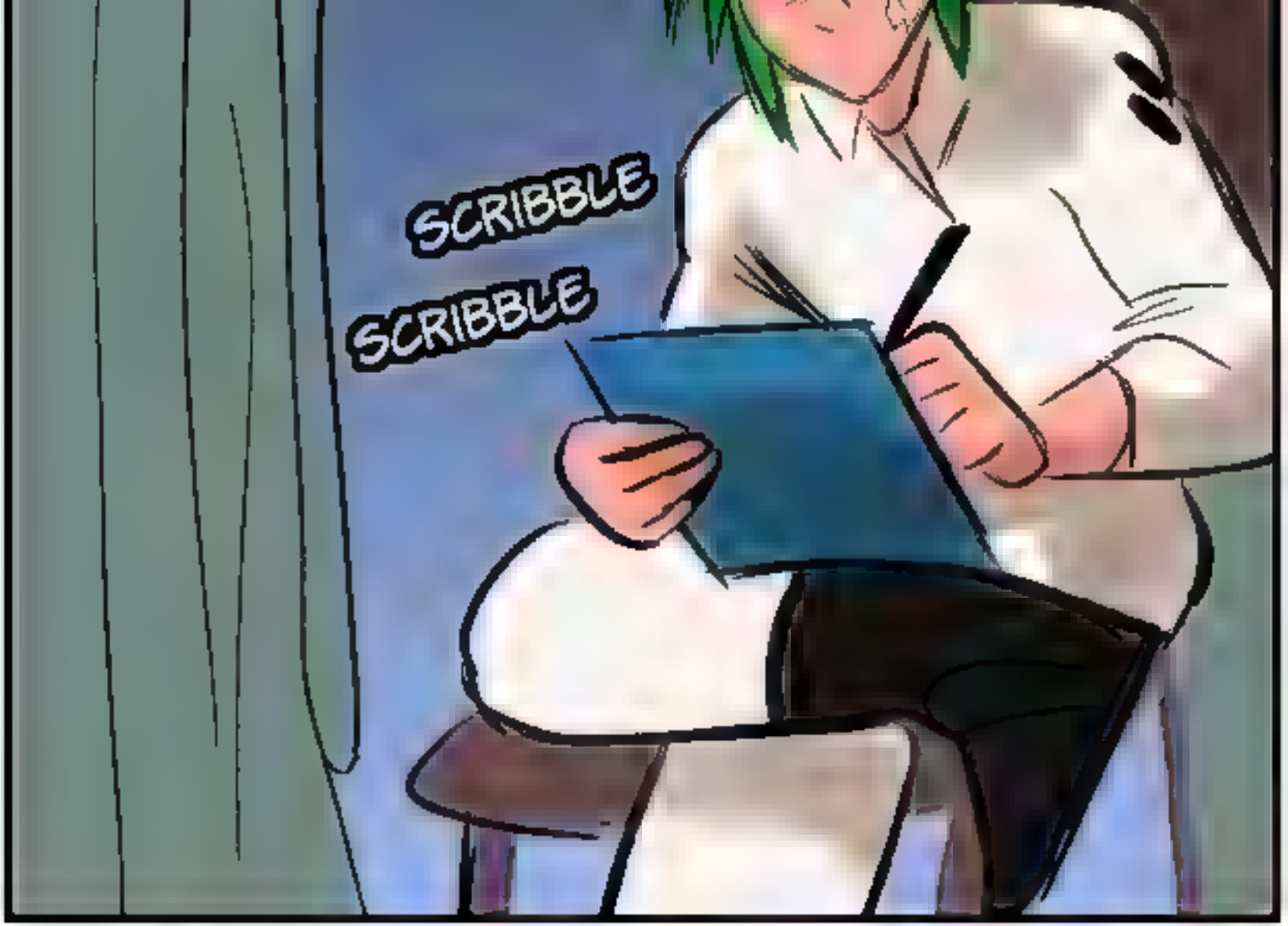
MEX
ILLUSIONS ARE THE GAME OF THE ENEMY

WE OFFER YOU ONLY INFORMATION. DO WITH IT WHAT YOU WILL.

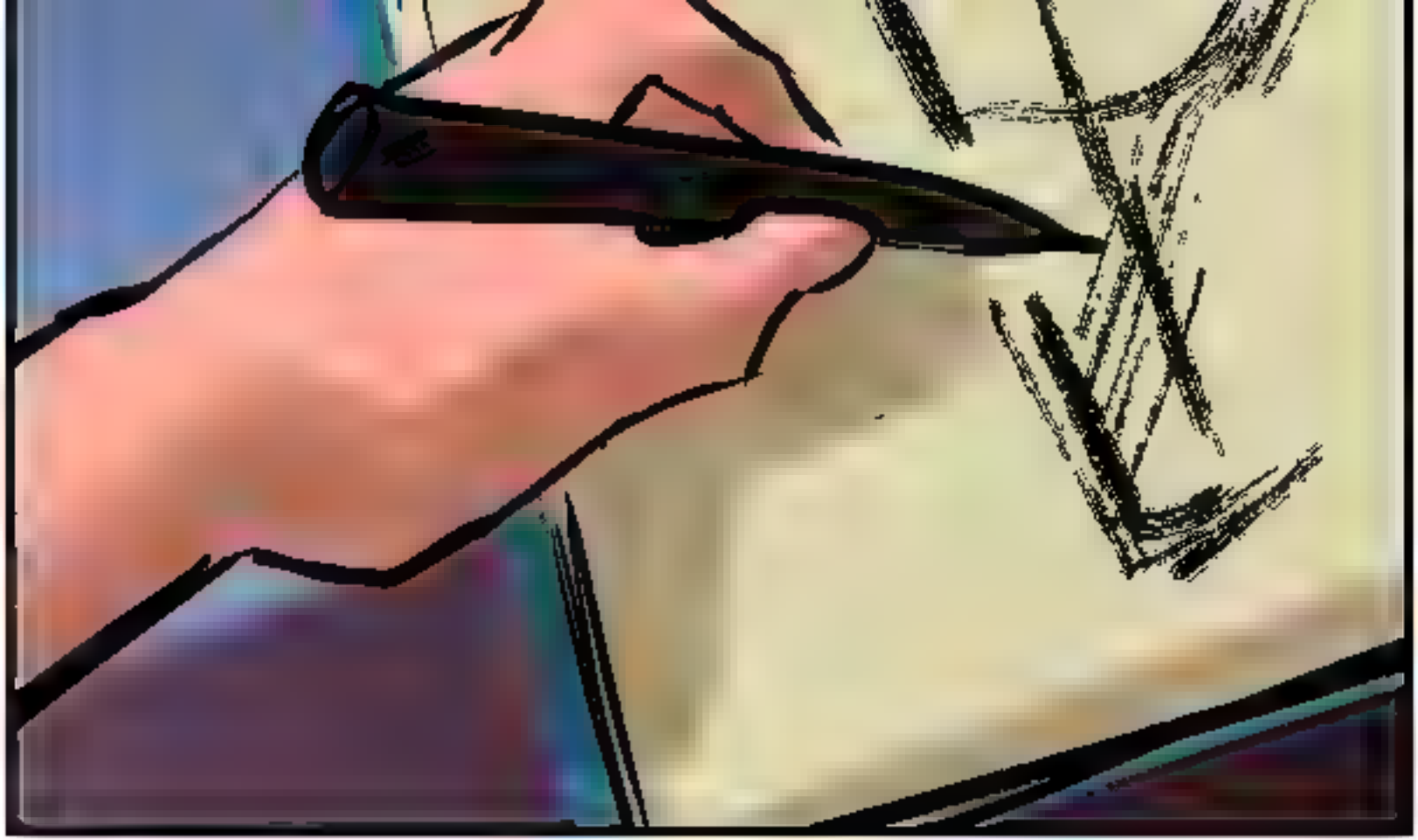


AS WAS BECOMING A PATTERN, MY ATTEMPTS TO GAIN CONTROL OVER MY MIND ONLY SERVED TO UNSETTLE ME FURTHER.

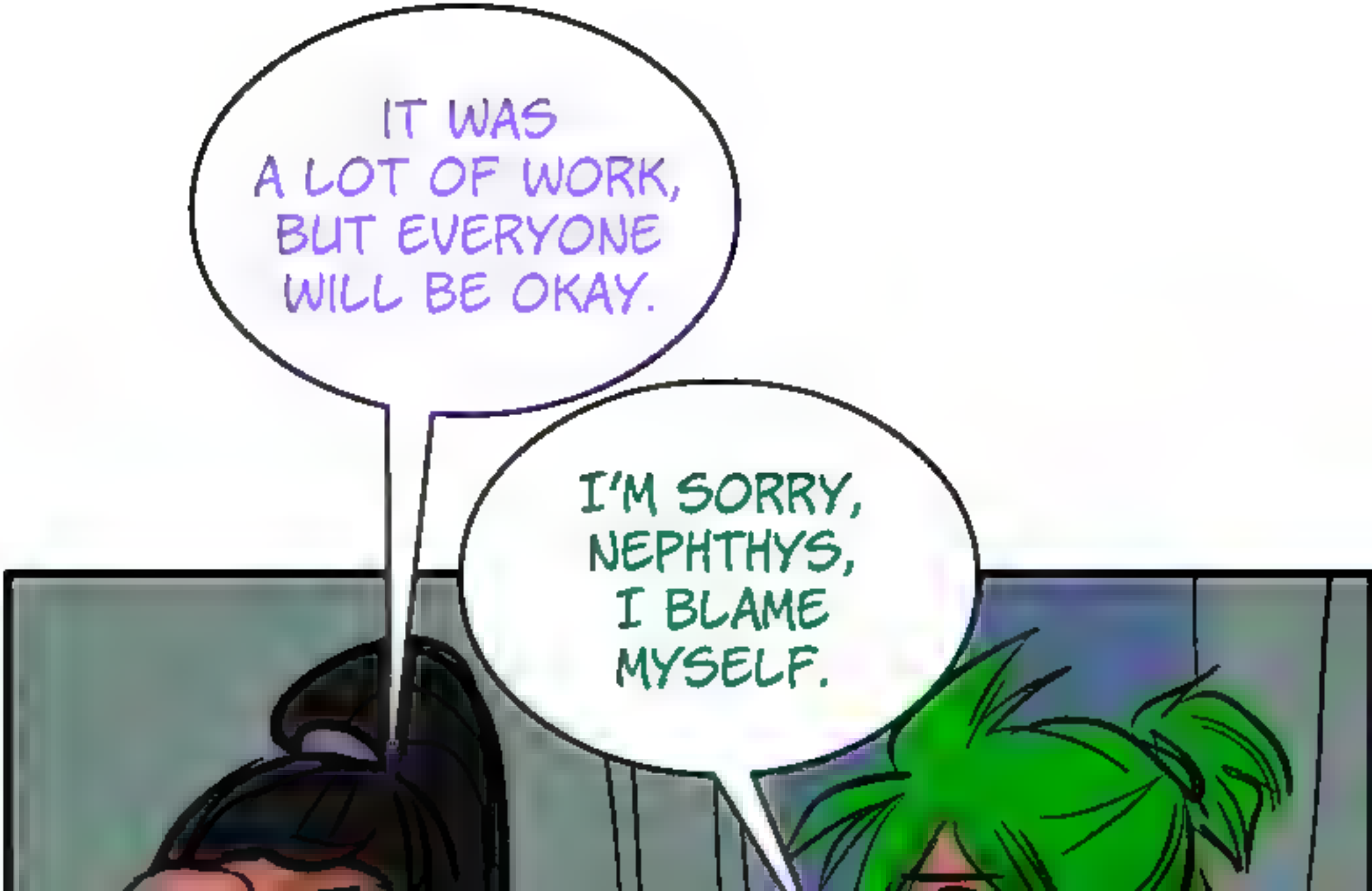
BY THE TIME I RETURNED TO CAMP, I WAS SO DISTRACTED, I ALMOST COST US THE MISSION. THERE WERE A RECORD NUMBER OF INJURIES. WE WERE LUCKY TO MAKE IT BACK AT ALL.


SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

THE VISIONS OF THE MYSTERIOUS BLADE WERE BURNED INTO MY MIND... I BARELY NOTICED AS I STARTED SKETCHING WHILE I WAITED FOR NEWS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE INJURED MEMBERS OF MY PARTY.

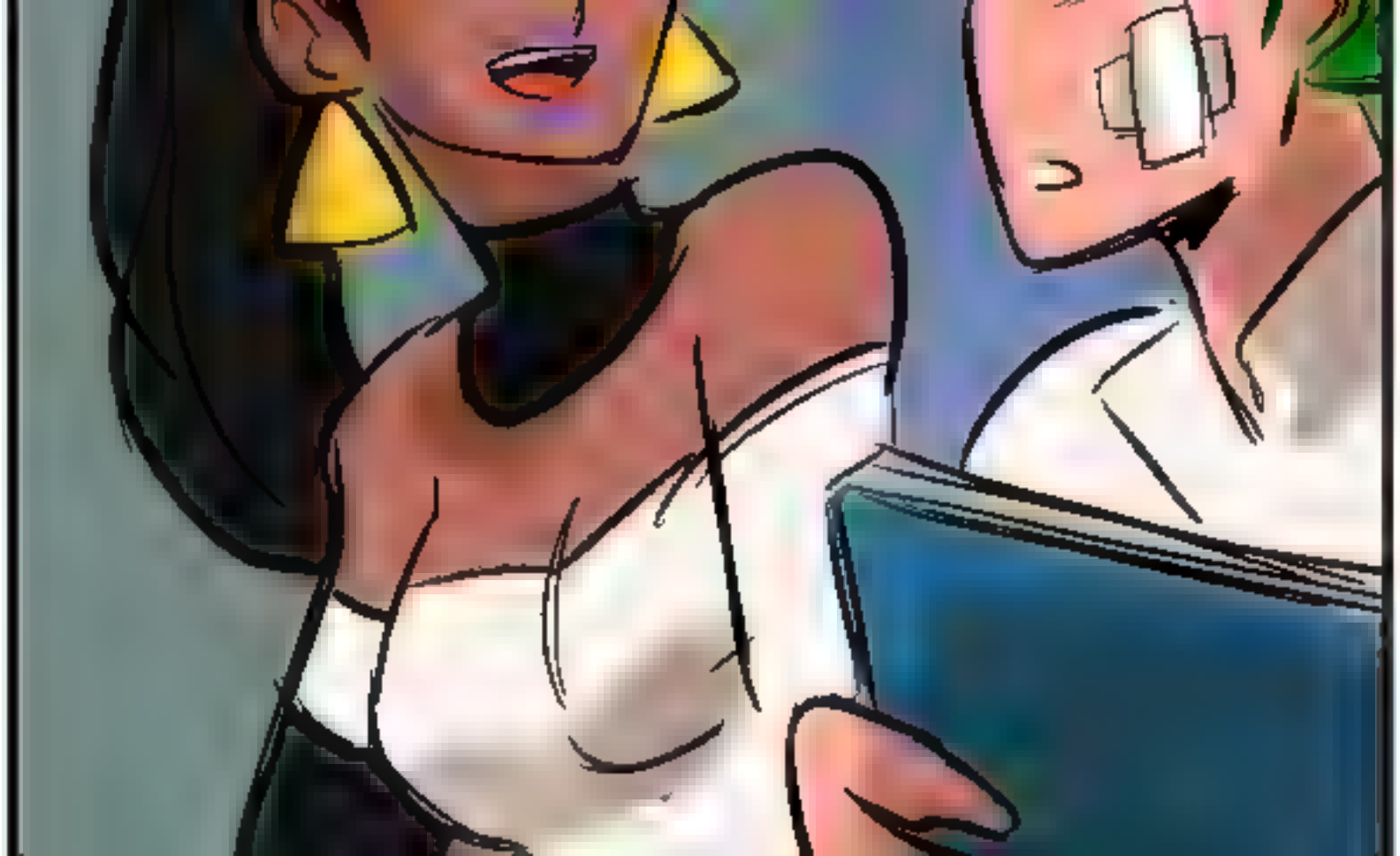


PHEW! I'M EXHAUSTED.


IT WAS A LOT OF WORK, BUT EVERYONE WILL BE OKAY.
I'M SORRY, NEPHTHYS, I BLAME MYSELF.

DON'T BE SILLY, YOU GOT THEM BACK SAFE, DIDN'T YOU?

OH, HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?

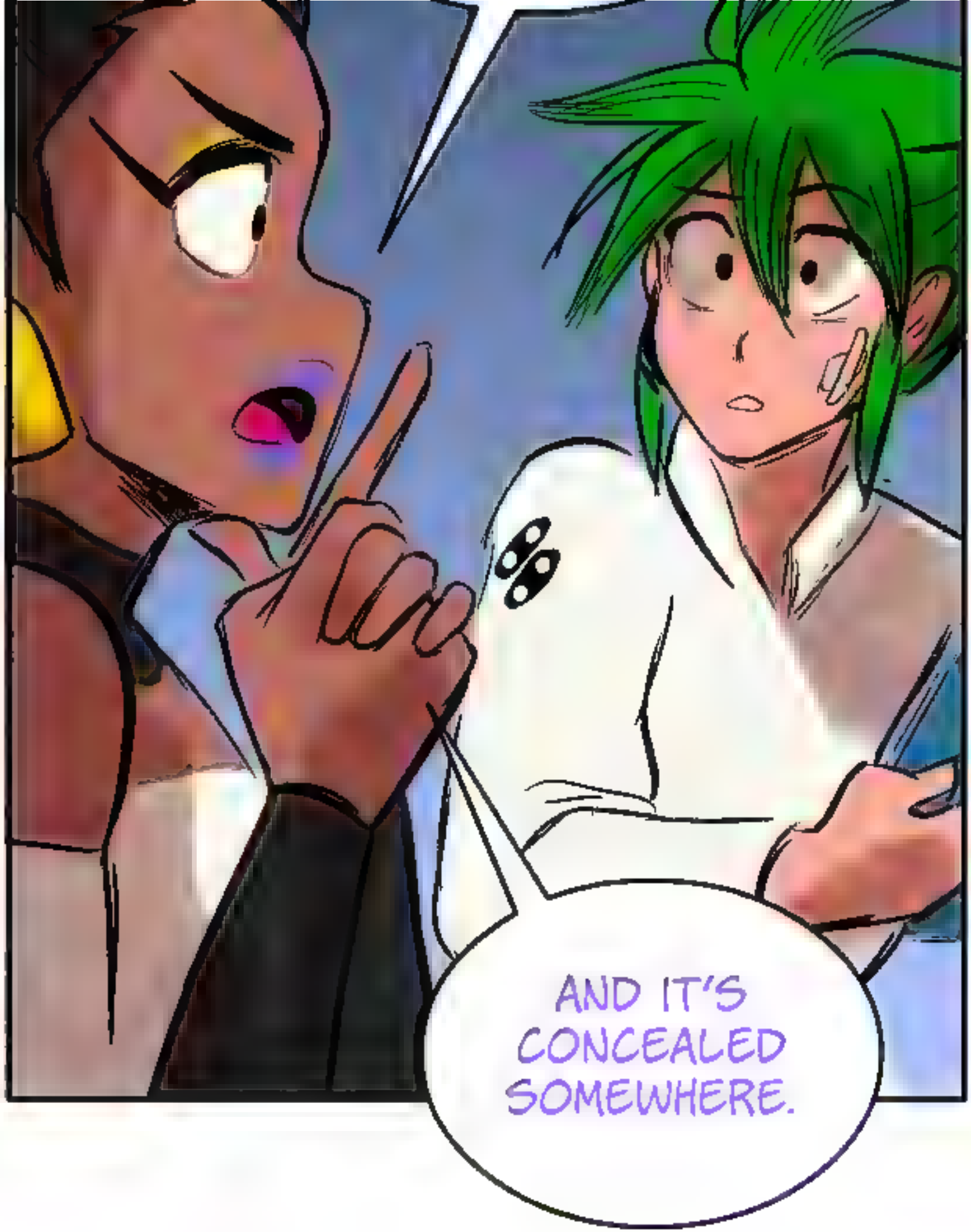


WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! LET ME GUESS.
UH... SURE.

I SEE A... SMALL SWORD.

OH! OR MAYBE A DAGGER.

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.


AND IT'S CONCEALED SOMEWHERE.

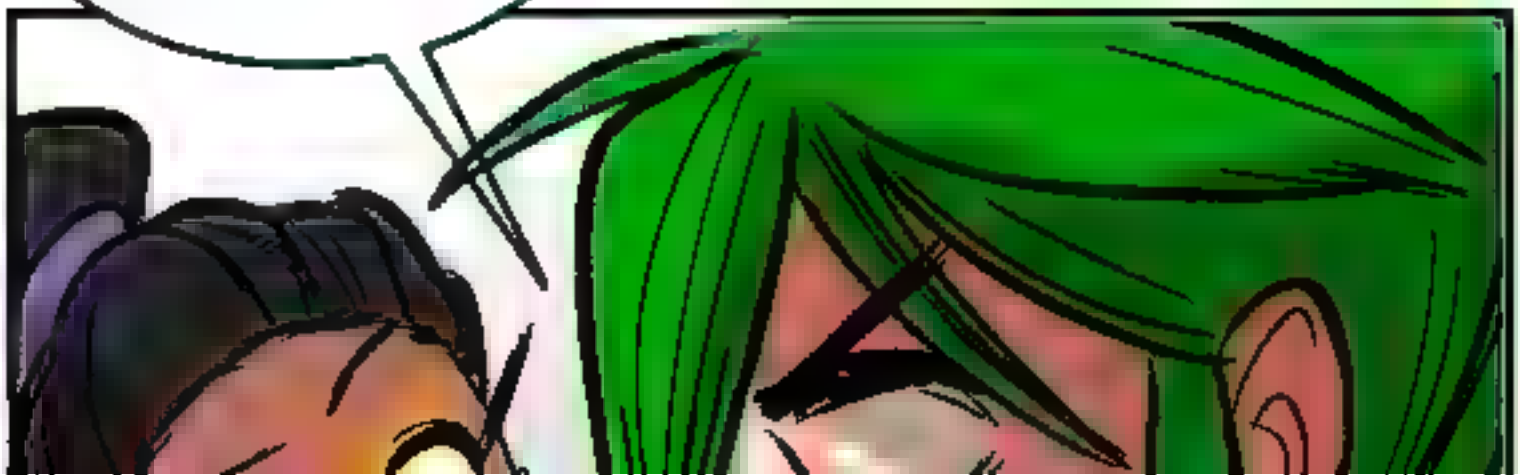
IT MIGHT BE DEEP UNDERGROUND... SOMETHING ABOUT AN UGLY PLANT-- OH!
FLIP

IT'S OKAY, YOU ALREADY GUESSED IT.

SEE?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
AH,
IT'S JUST A
DAGGER!

HOW EMBARASSING.... SOMETIMES I DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY IMAGINATION AND MY INTUITION...

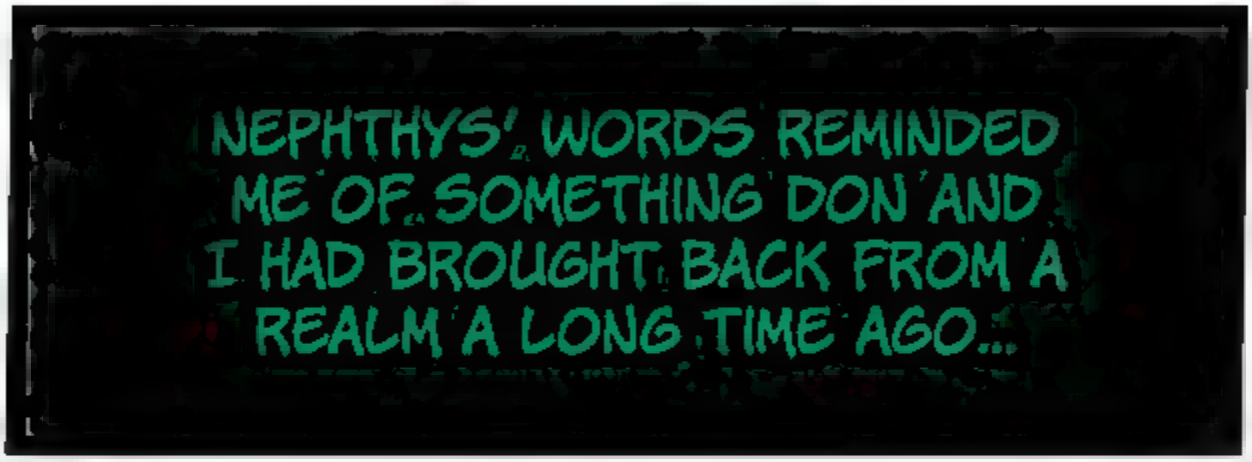
NO, IT'S FINE...



MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

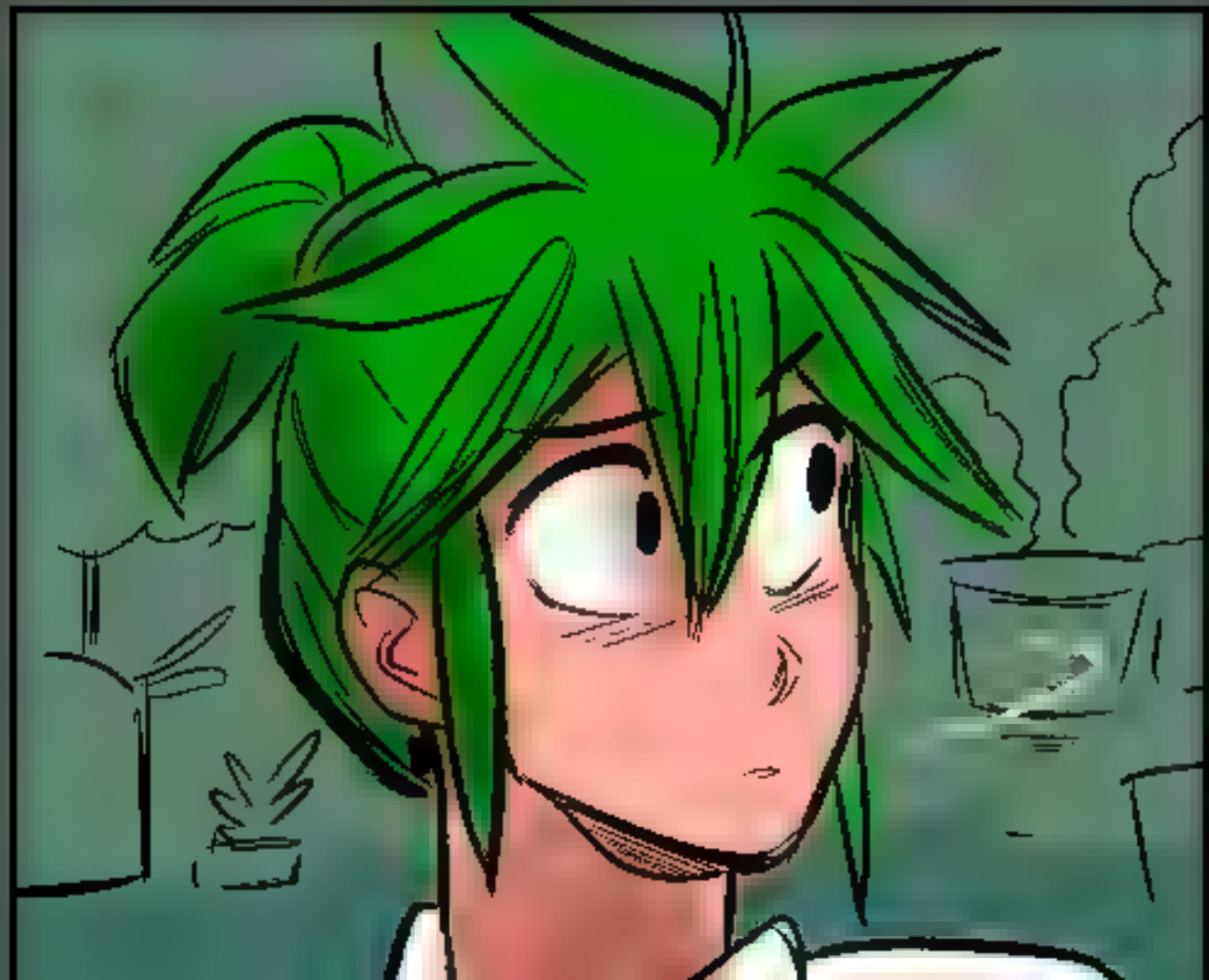
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, NEPHTHYS.

...ANY TIME.


NEPHTHYS' WORDS REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING DON AND I HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM A REALM A LONG TIME AGO...

TAK
TAK
TAK

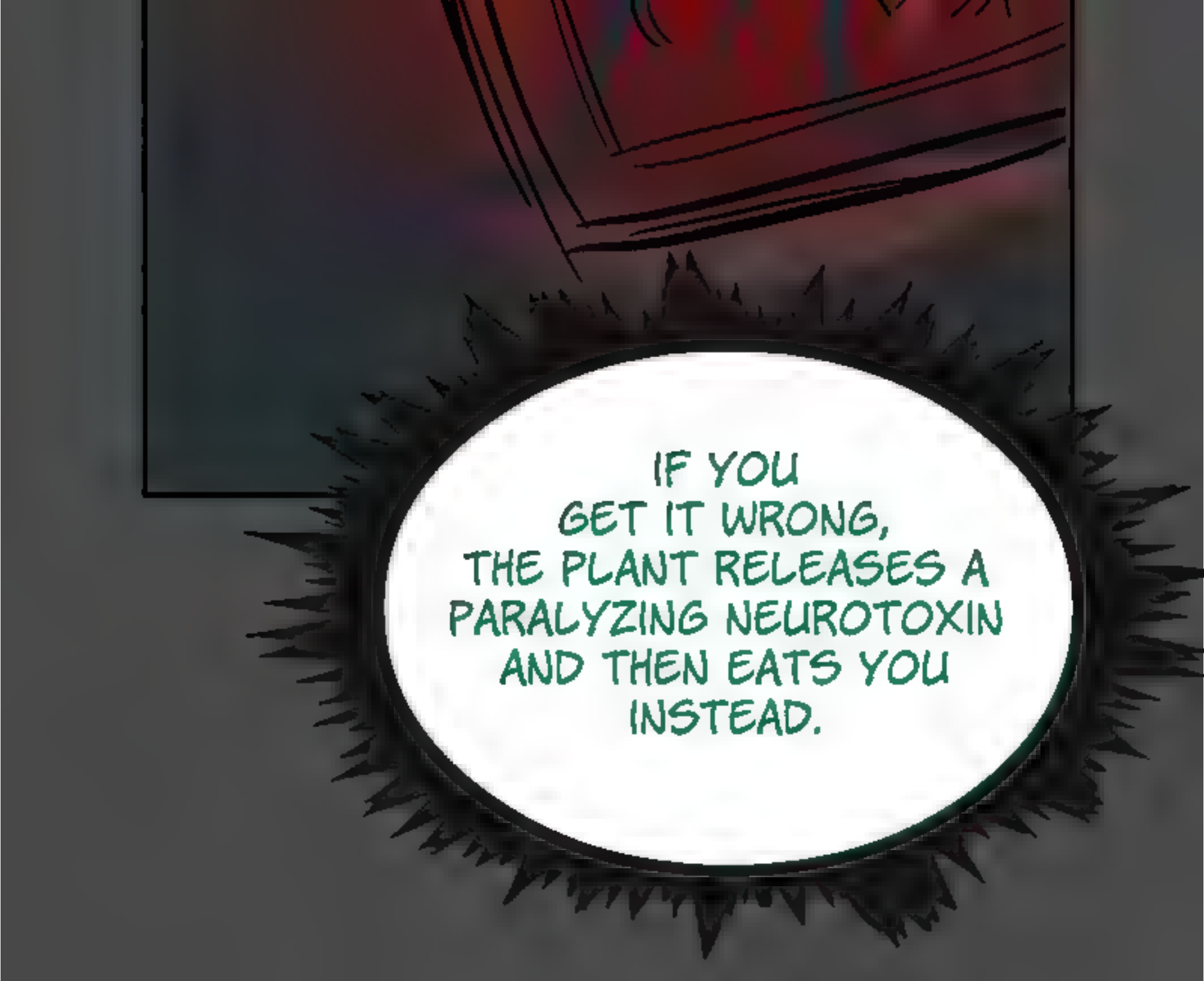
TAK
TAK
TAK

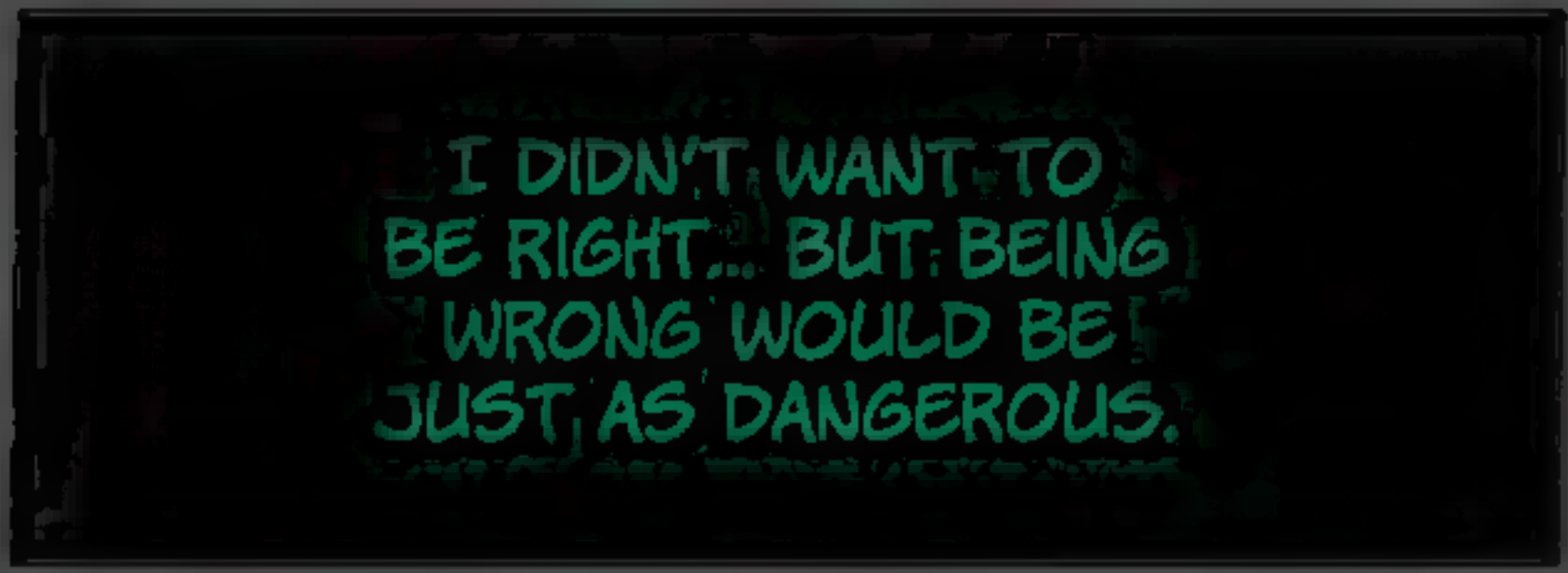


THE UNDERTAKER PLANT...

THE COMPLEX ROOT STRUCTURE HOLDS EVERYTHING ITS EVER EATEN...

IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET ANY ITEM BACK AS LONG AS YOU KNOW IT'S NAME AND THE NAME OF WHO FED IT TO THE PLANT.

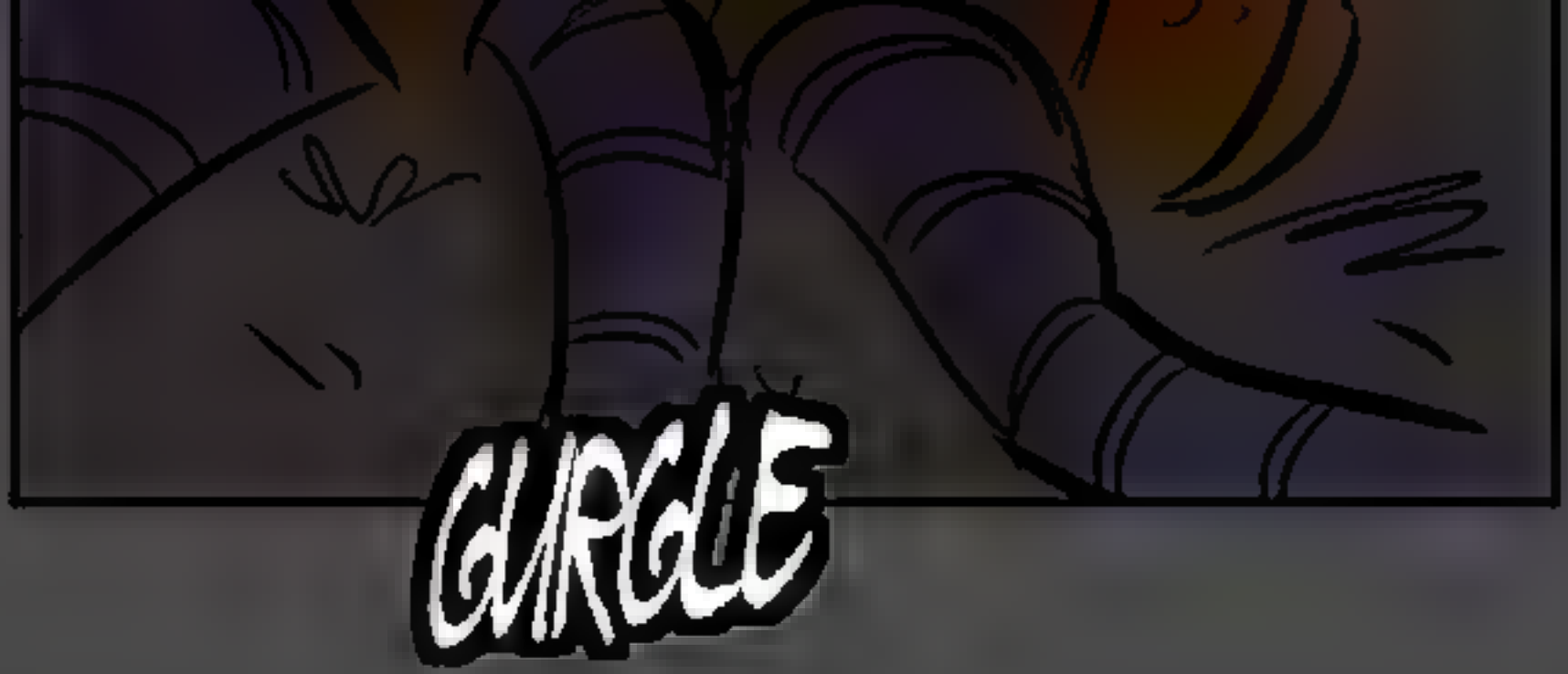

IF YOU
GET IT WRONG,
THE PLANT RELEASES A
PARALYZING NEUROTOXIN
AND THEN EATS YOU
INSTEAD.


I DIDN'T WANT TO BE RIGHT... BUT BEING WRONG WOULD BE JUST AS DANGEROUS.

DAGGER.

GURRRR !!!

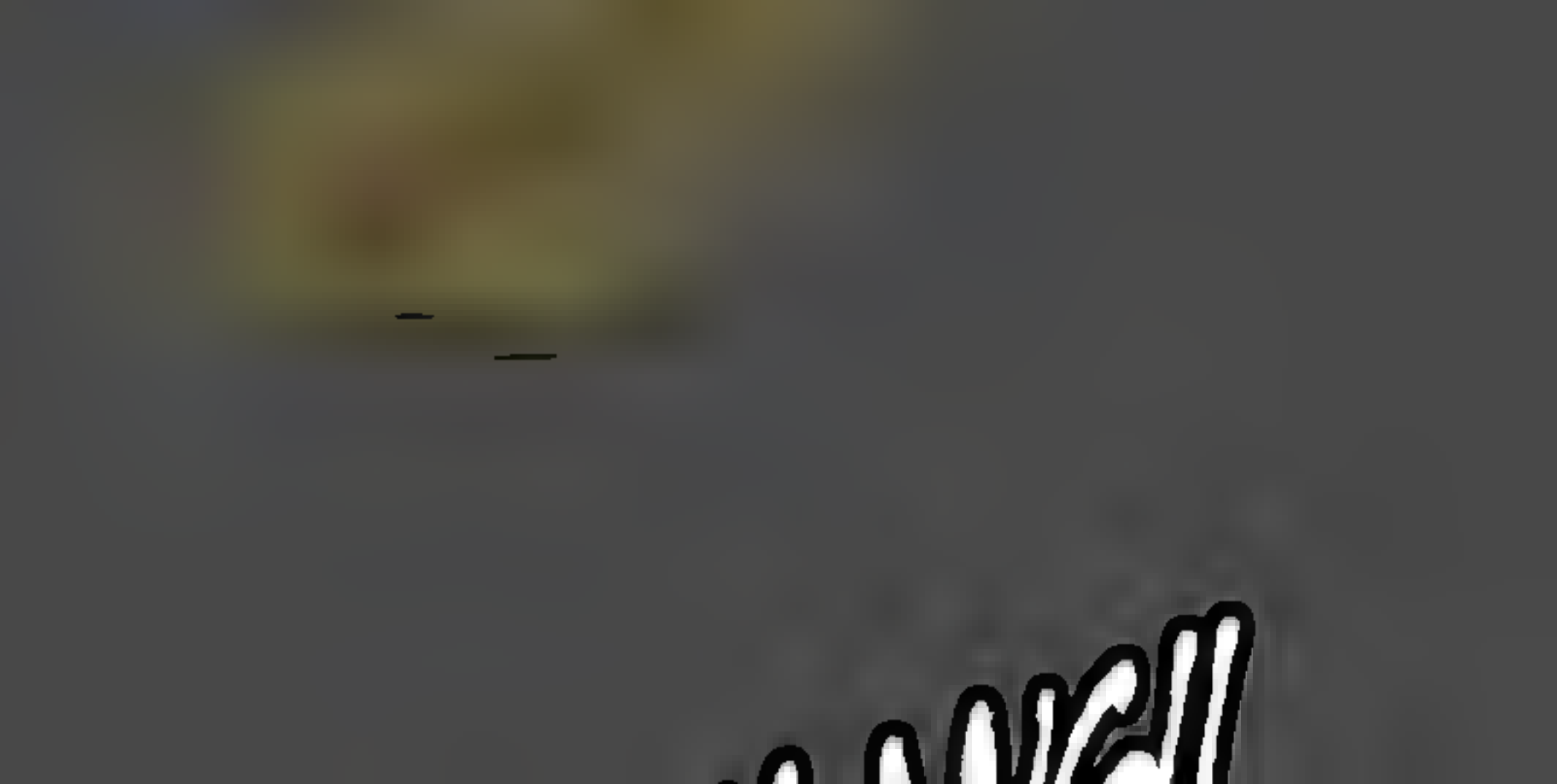
GURGLE
GURGLE

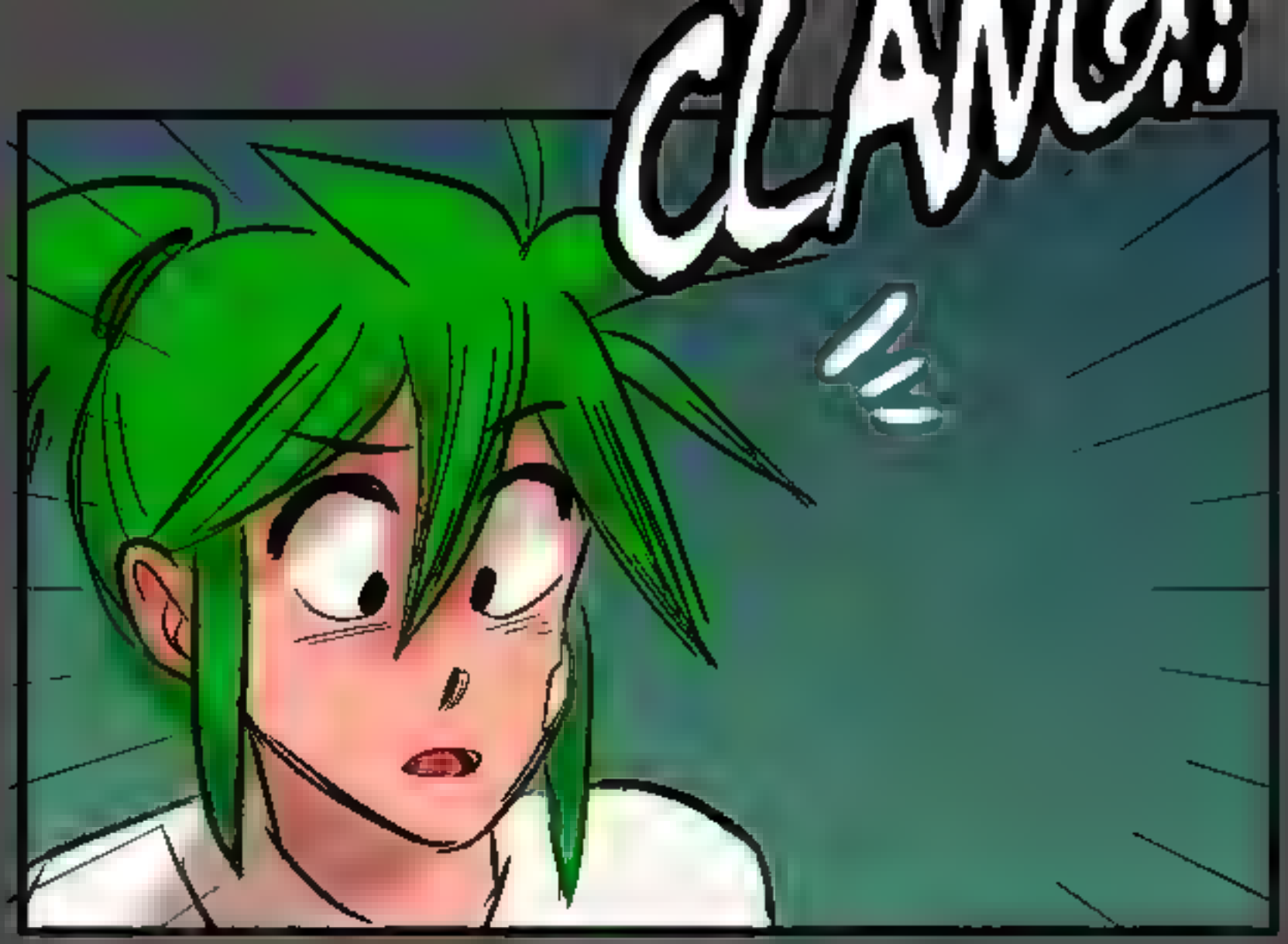

GURGLE

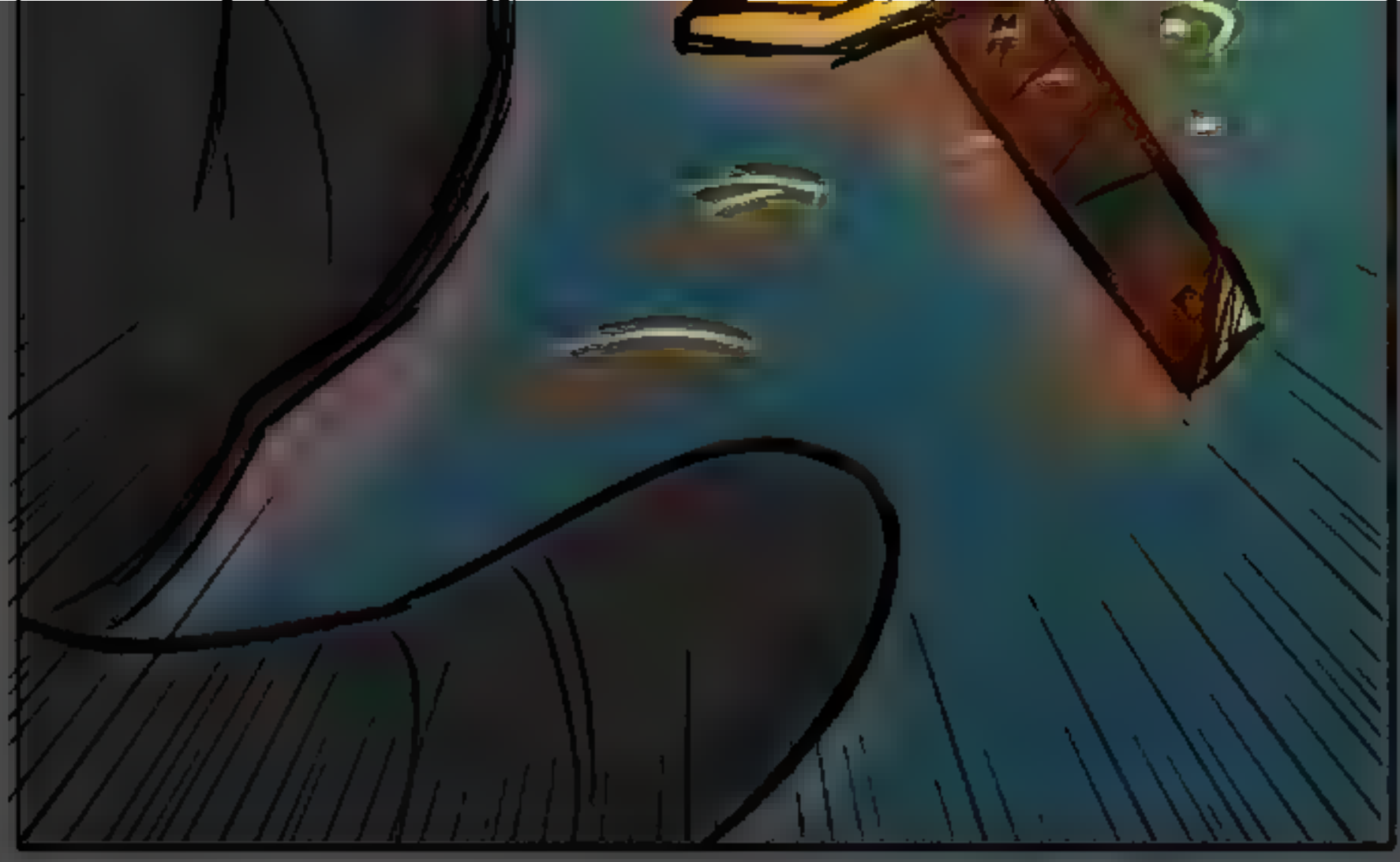
CHOMP!

CHOMP!
CHOMP!

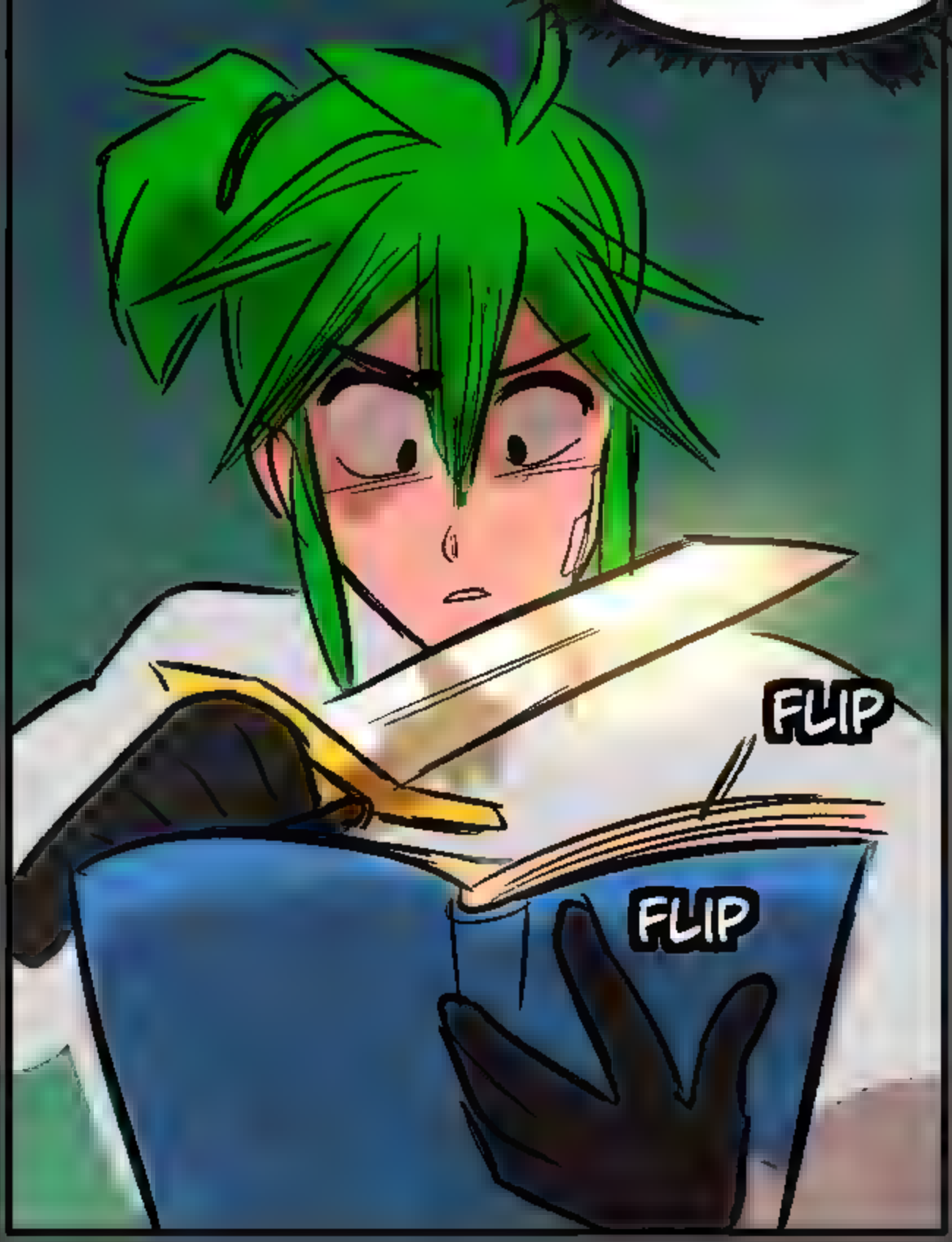
spit!

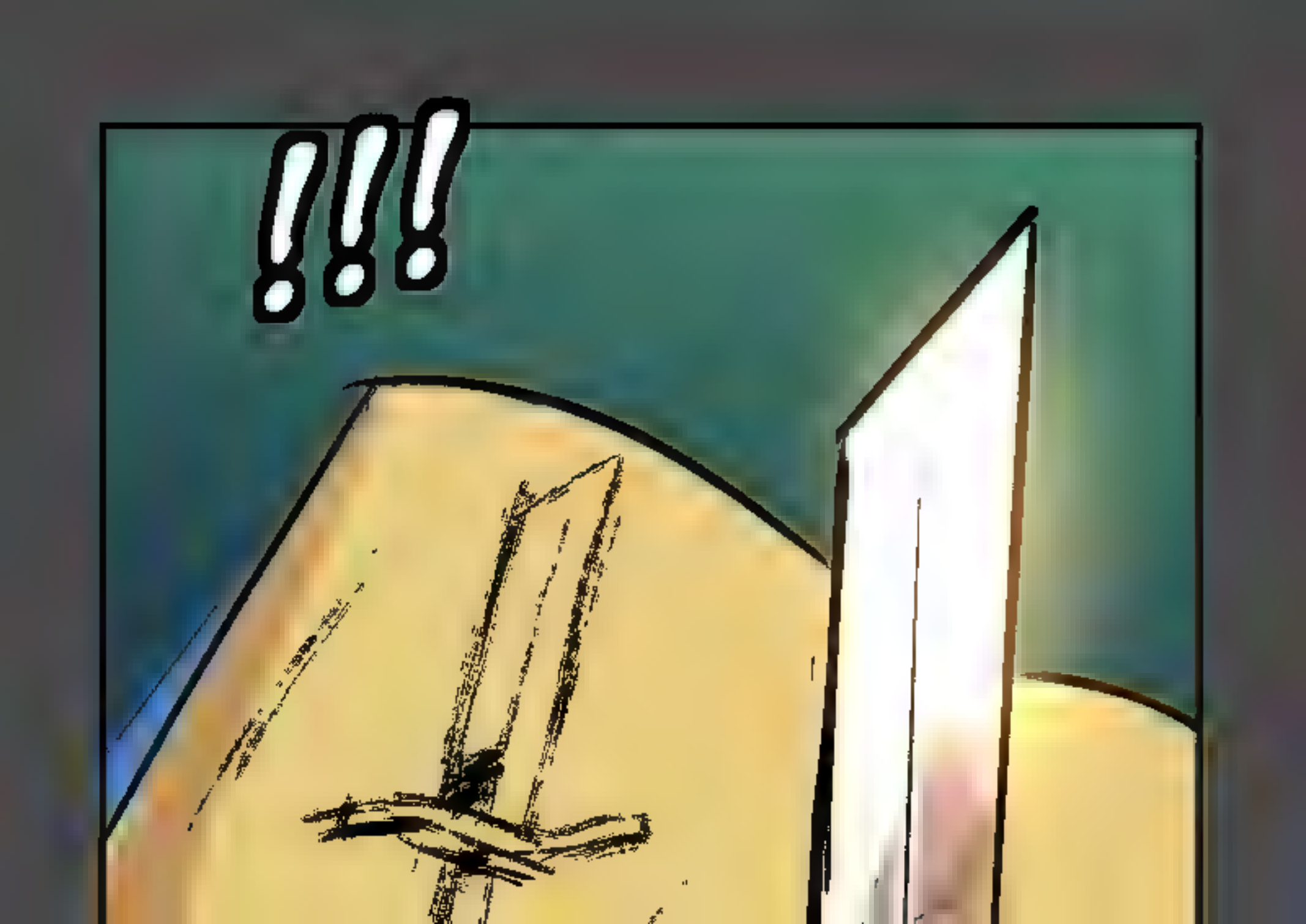



CLAM!!

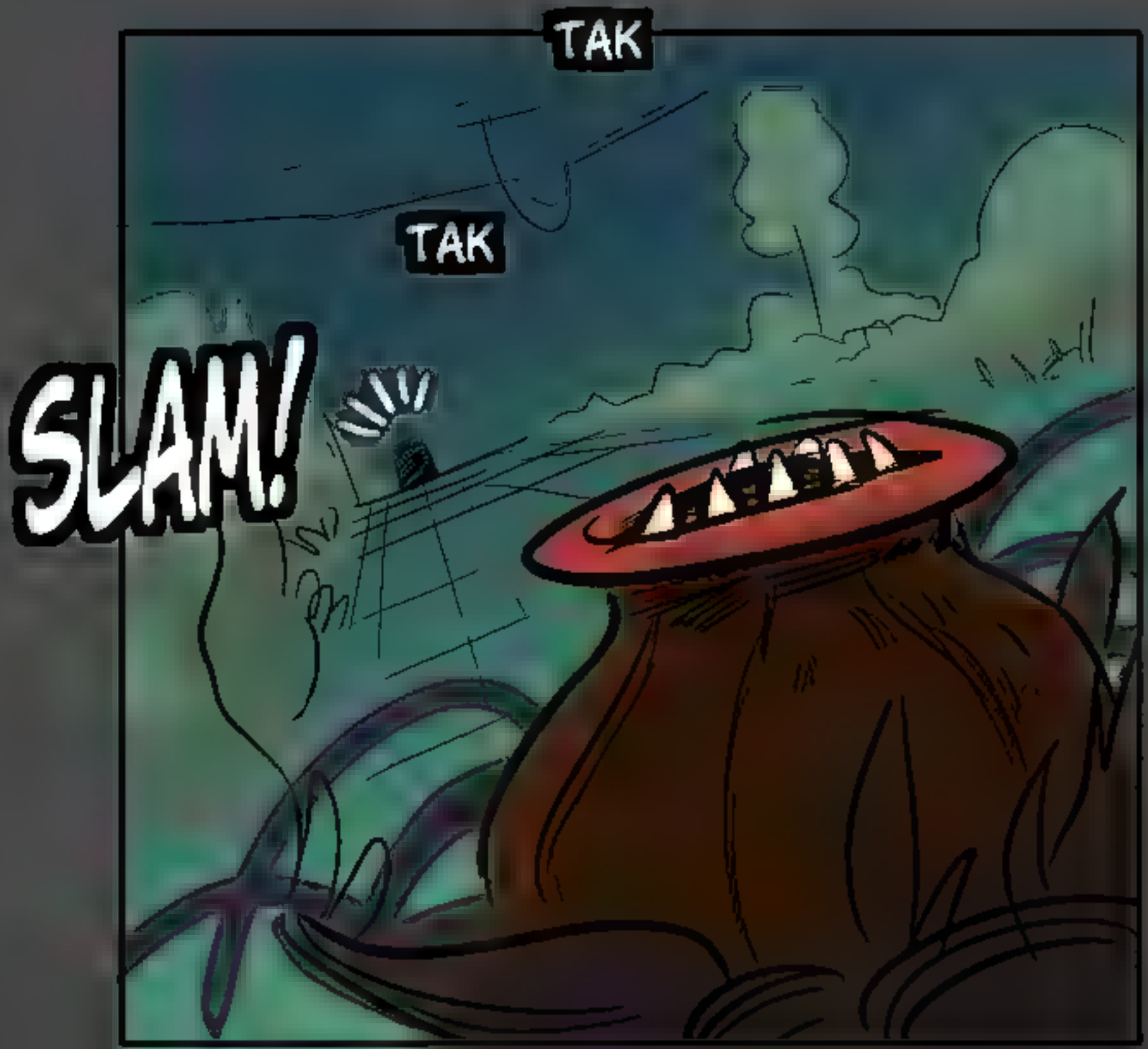


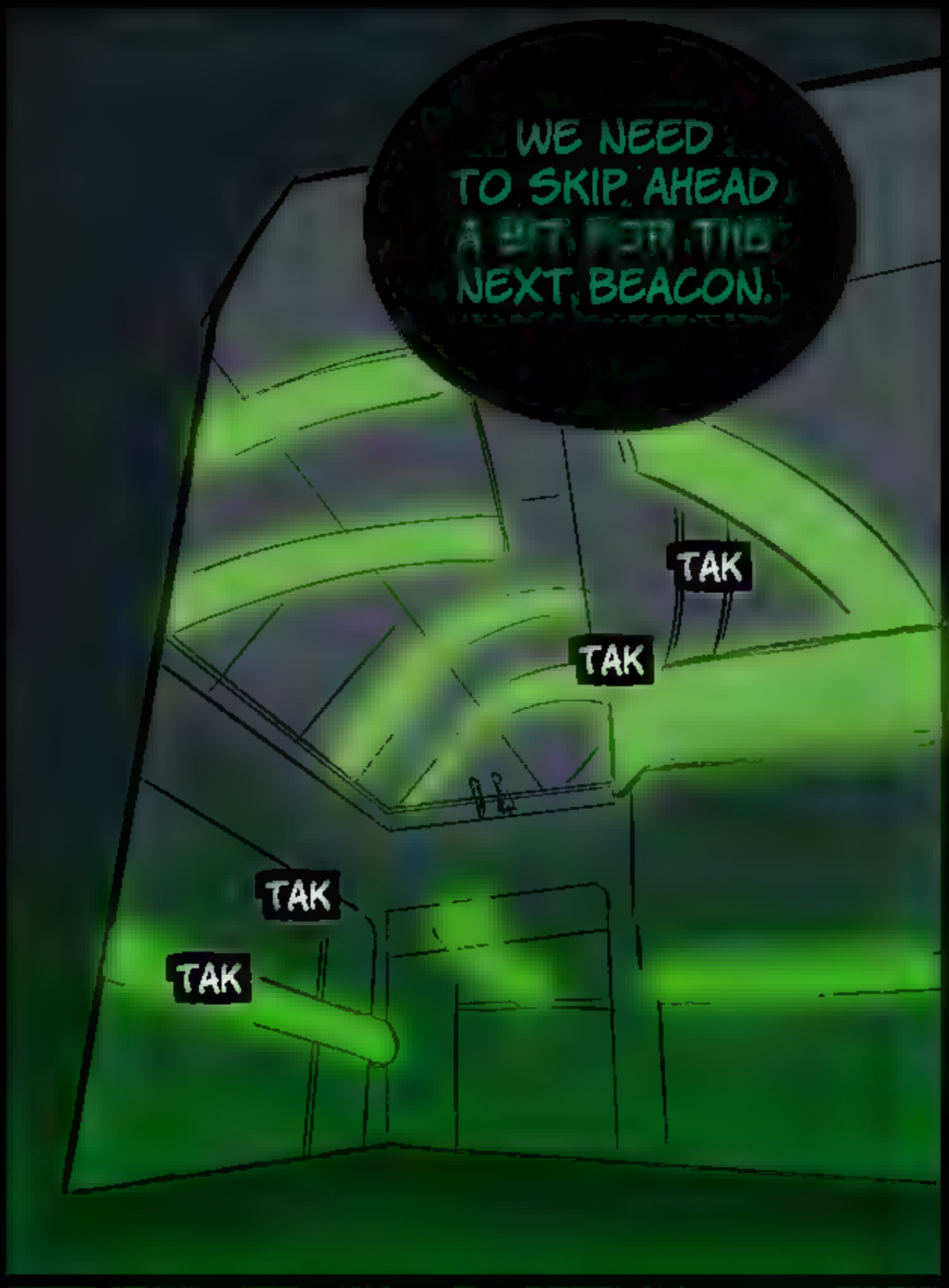
THIS IS THE KNIFE FROM THE VISION...!


FLIP
FLIP



DON... WHY?
CLOSE!
WHY ARE YOU LYING TO ME?!
TAK
TAK


TAK
TAK
SLAM!


WE NEED TO SKIP AHEAD A BIT FOR THE NEXT BEACON.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK

IT'S... RIGHT UP AHEAD...
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF

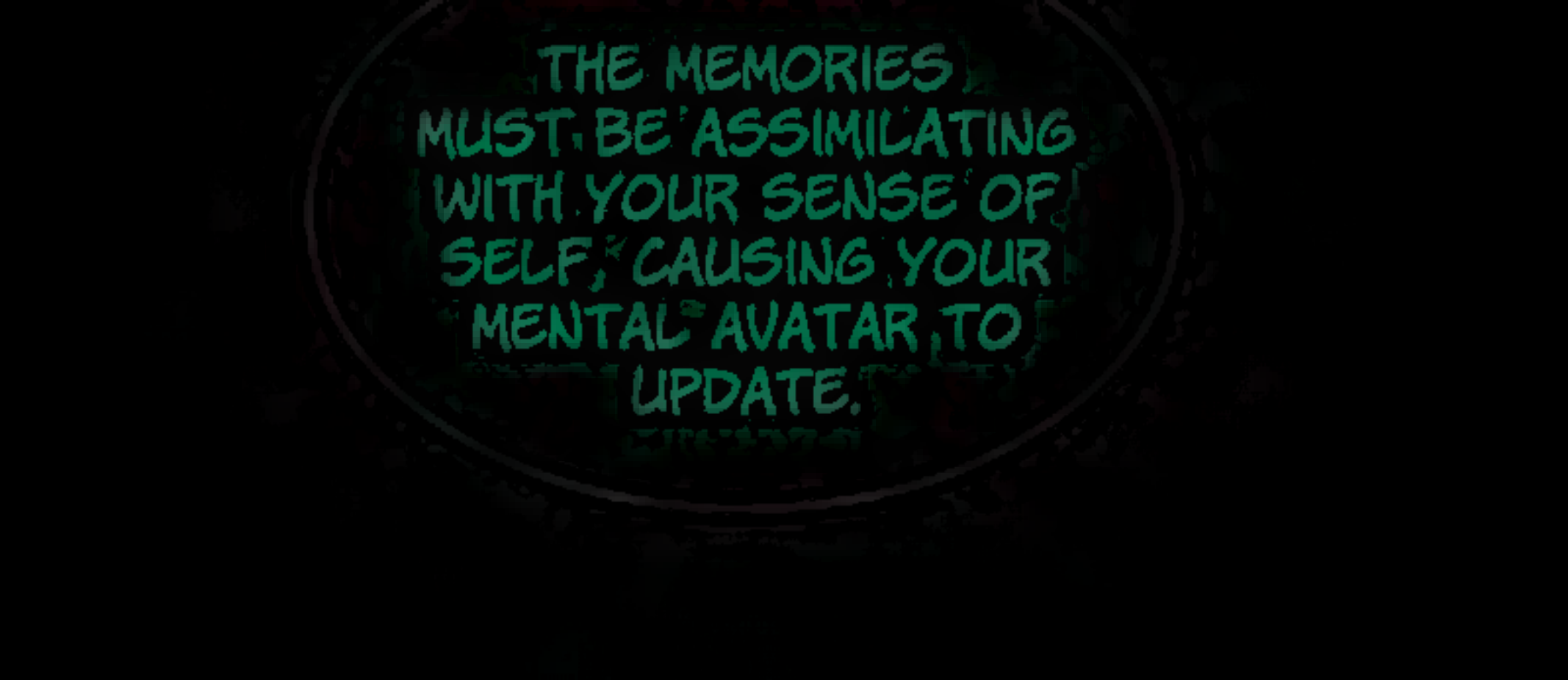
STUMBLE
ARE YOU OKAY?!

YOU
DON'T LOOK
SO GOOD...

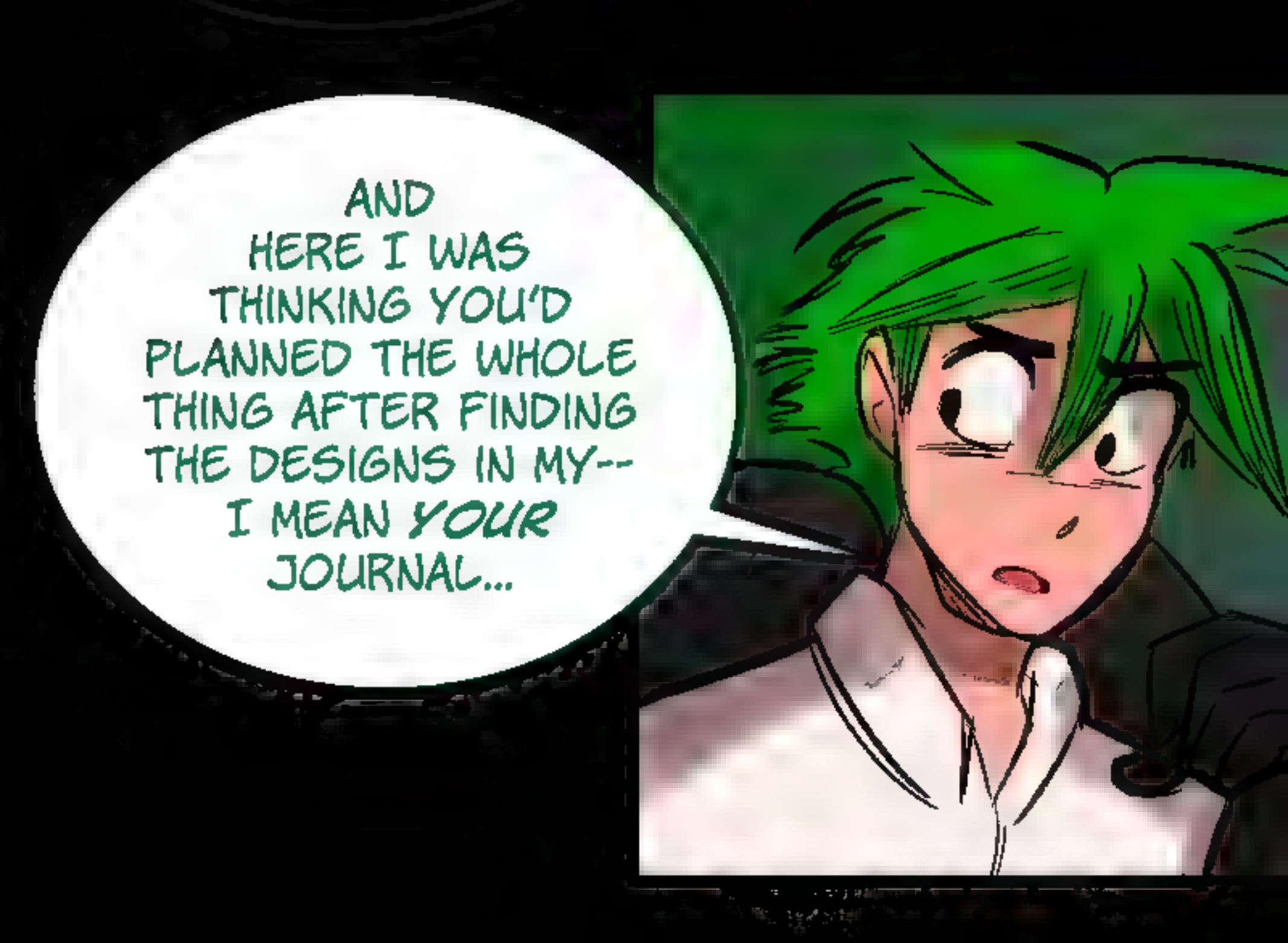
...SHOULD WE STOP AND REST?

...WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU? YOU SHOULD SEE YOURSELF!

NO, LOOK!
MY ARM...!
OHHHHHHHHH
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.


THE MEMORIES MUST BE ASSIMILATING WITH YOUR SENSE OF SELF, CAUSING YOUR MENTAL AVATAR TO UPDATE.

ALTHOUGH,
I HAVE TO ADMIT...
IT'S STRANGE SEEING
MYSELF WEAR
THAT ARM.


AND HERE I WAS THINKING YOU'D PLANNED THE WHOLE THING AFTER FINDING THE DESIGNS IN MY-- I MEAN YOUR JOURNAL...

A CYBERNETIC ARM...!
SOMETHING ABOUT IT LOOKS SO FAMILIAR..!

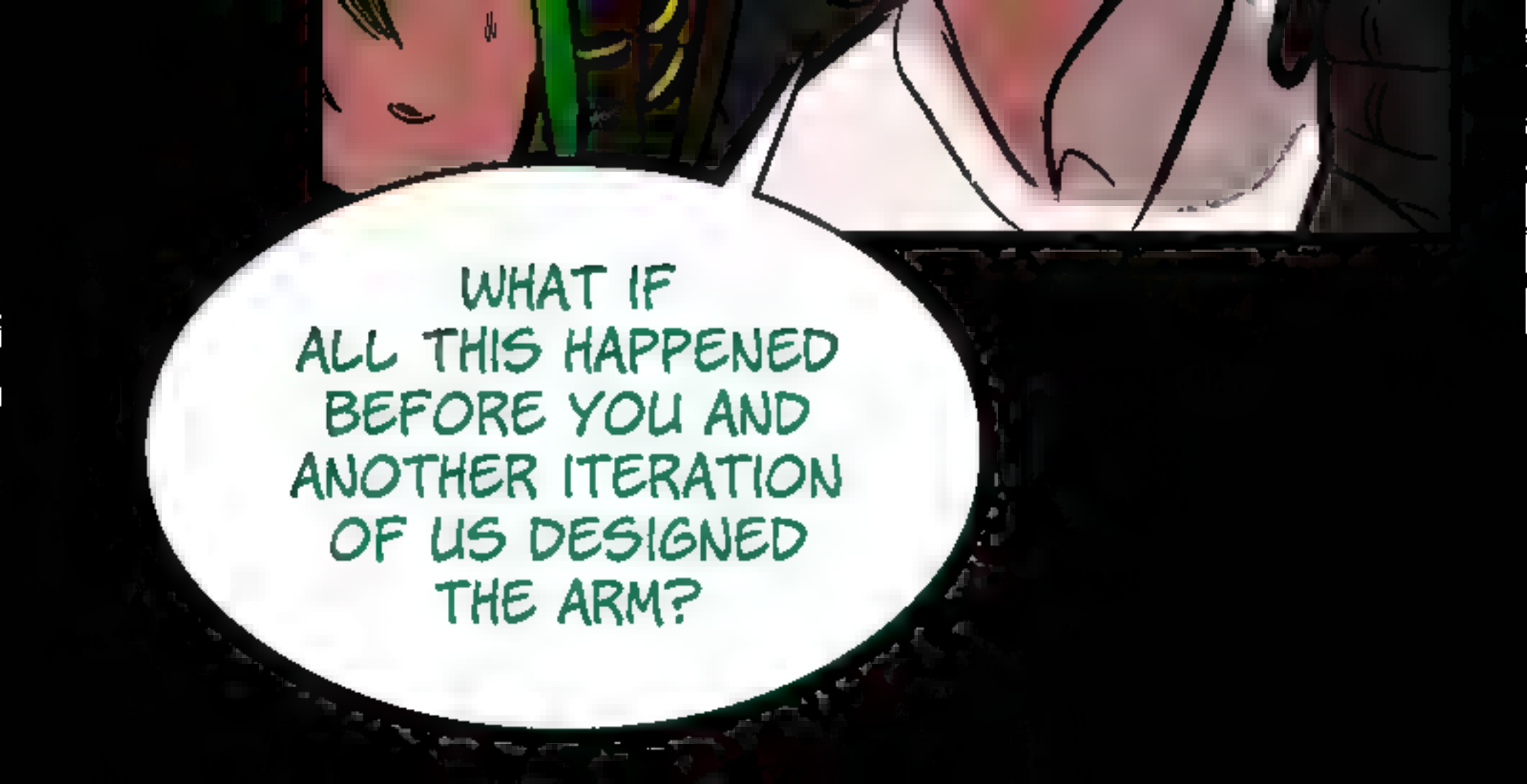
THOSE WERE JUST STUDIES OF THE ARM I FOUND.

I HAD NO IDEA AT THE TIME THAT YOU WOULD END UP WEARING IT.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK

YEAH,
I KNOW THAT
NOW...
BUT
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT
BOTHERS
ME.

THE DESIGN, THE MEASUREMENTS, IT'S ALL EXACTLY HOW I WOULD DESIGN IT.
WHAT IF...

EVERYTHING YOU'RE SHOWING ME ISN'T THE BEGINNING AT ALL?


WHAT IF
ALL THIS HAPPENED
BEFORE YOU AND
ANOTHER ITERATION
OF US DESIGNED
THE ARM?

HEH
NOW YOU'RE THINKING.

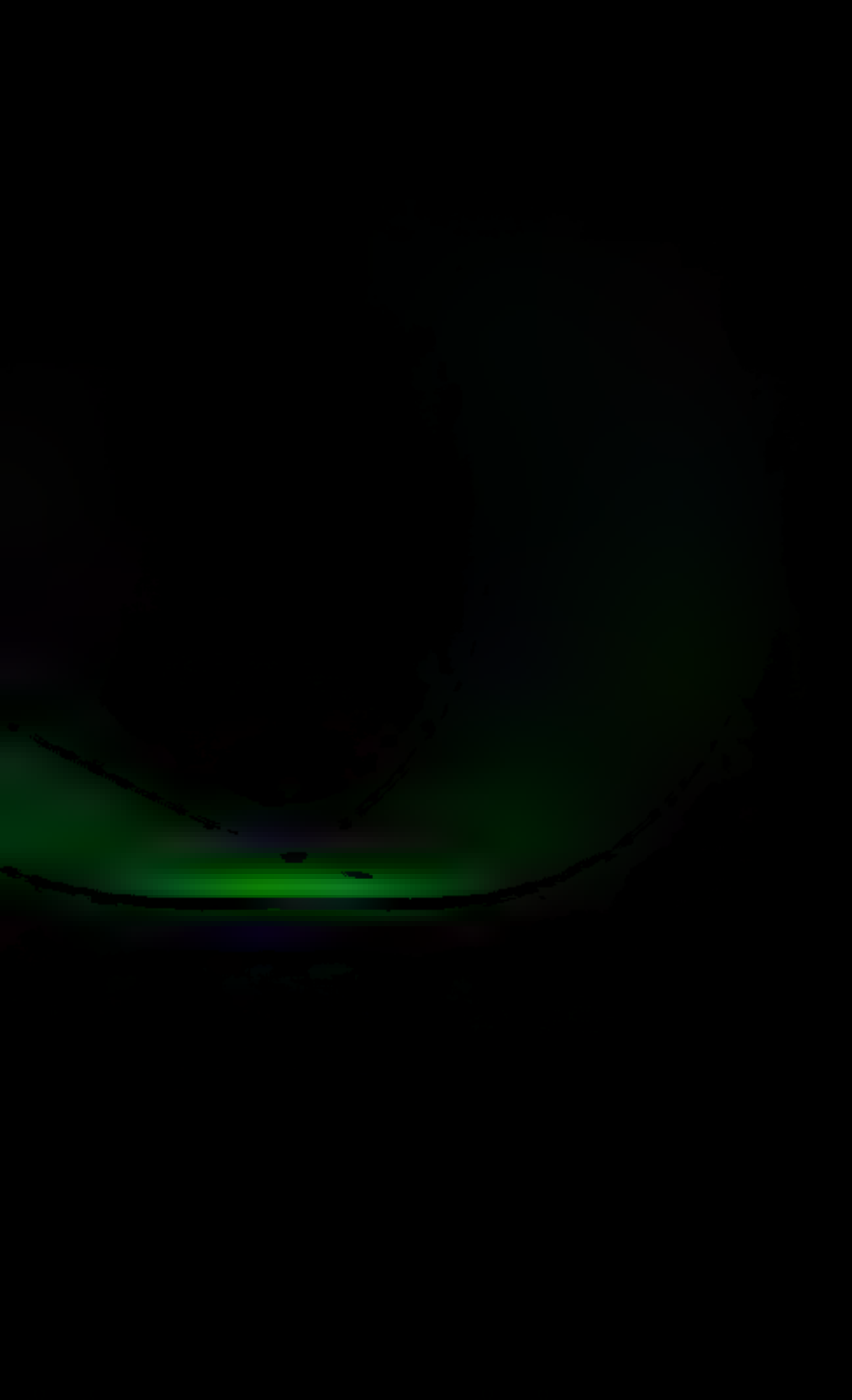
KEEP
LET'S KEEP
MOVING.

ONLY A FEW MORE BEACONS TO GO.

TAK

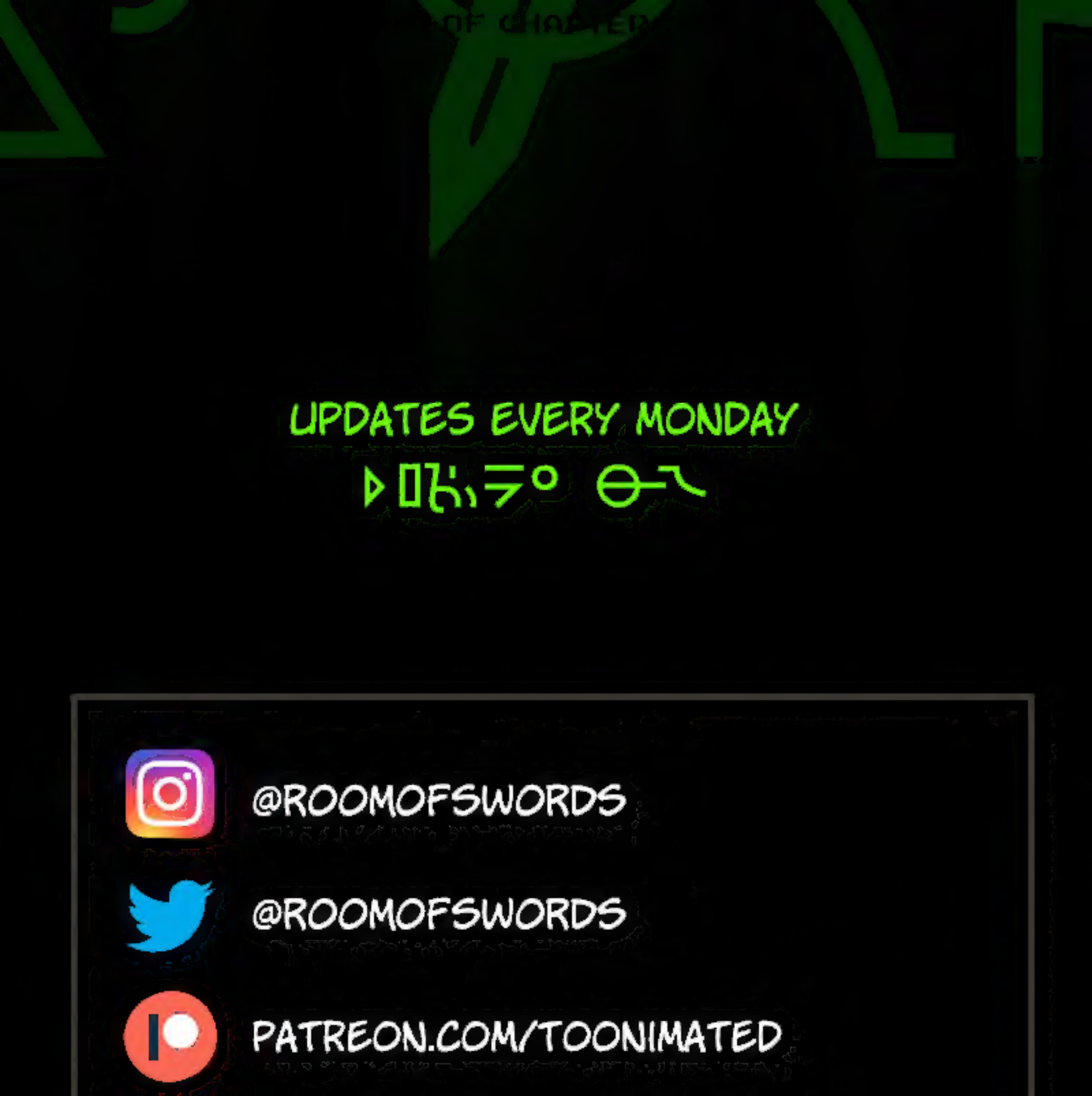
TAK

TAK



ROOM of
SWORDS

UPDATES EVERY MONDAY



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